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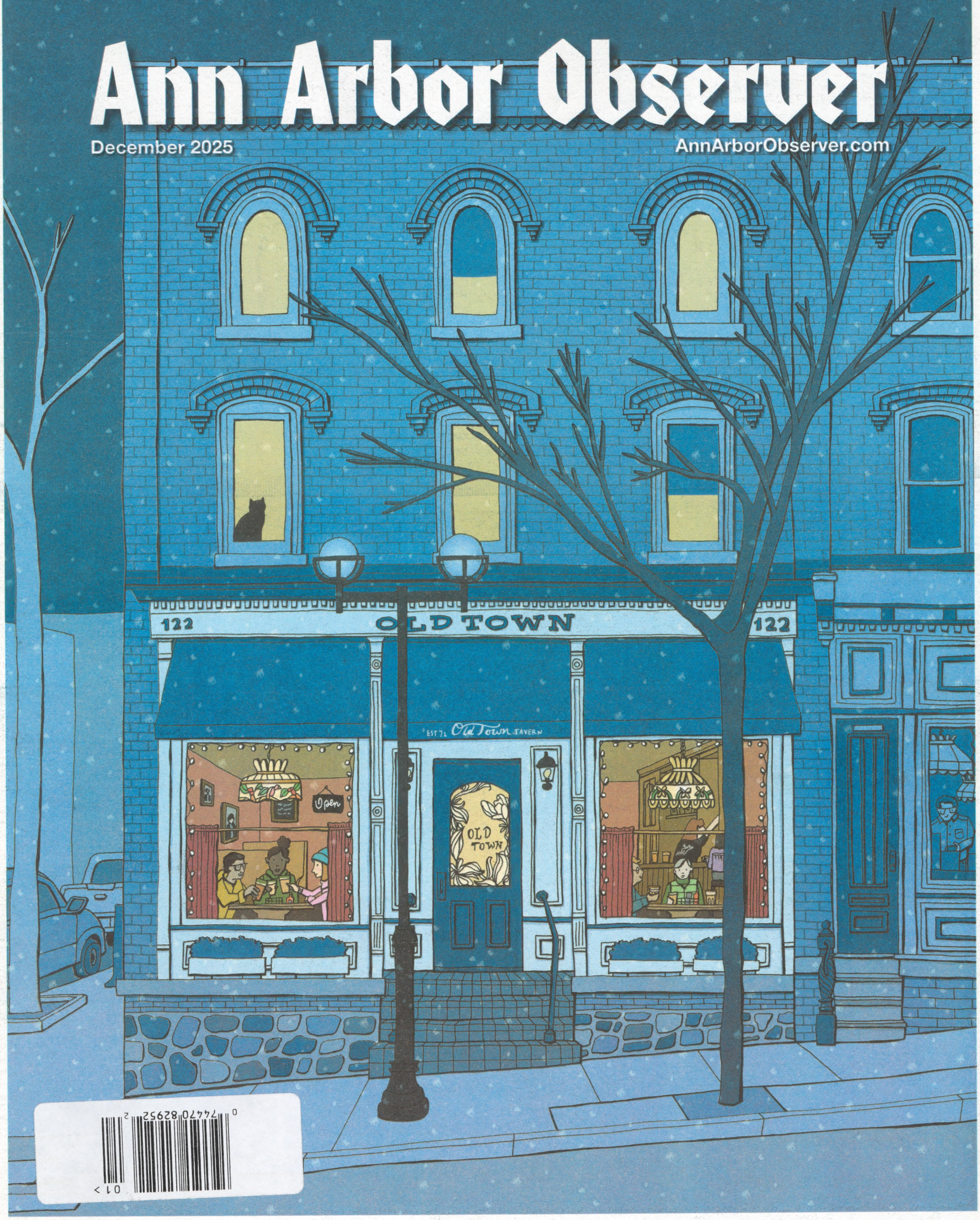

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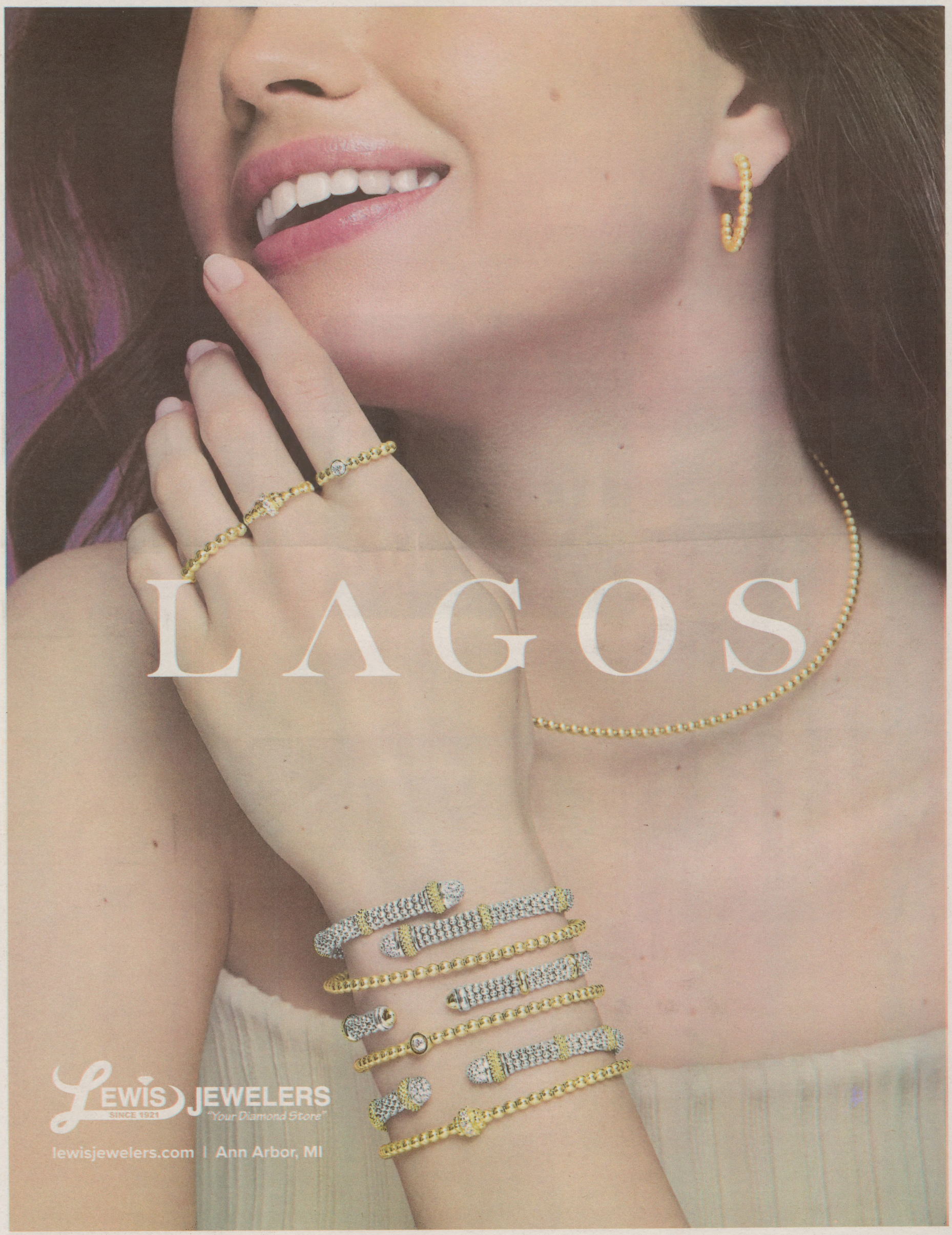
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Are you strong enough?

7 STRENGTH STANDARDS FOR THE 50+ CROWD

I'll start with the bad news.

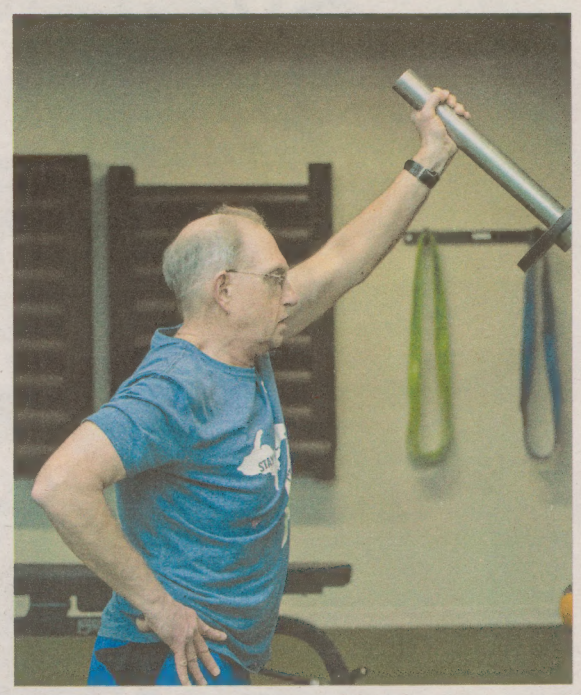
After the age of 30, the average person's strength will diminish by 10-15% every decade. That may not sound like much, but consider this. If you want to be able to put a 20lb suitcase in the overhead compartment of a plane when you're in your 80s or 90s, that means you should be able to put a 40-50lb suitcase up there today. Would you be able to do that with confidence? Or would you have to ask for help?

I'm reminded of a new member who started with us after realizing she couldn't travel independently anymore (she had to have her husband carry her suitcase up the stairs for her). That's where she drew the line and started working on her strength.

If you've noticed that the activities that used to be easy for you are now harder to do, or take a bigger toll on your body… things like working in the yard, moving your kids into college, and being active with your family on vacation… you're probably feeling the strength declines that come with age.

SOME SIGNS YOU MAY NEED TO INCLUDE MORE STRENGTH TRAINING IN YOUR ROUTINE ARE:

- **You second guess your ability to get down and up from the floor.**
- **You can't do as much physical work as you used to (yard work, gardening, moving heavy household items, etc) without paying for it the next day.**
- **The activities you enjoy are getting harder to do, or you're avoiding them all together.**
- **You have opted out of family activities because you didn't want to do poorly or hold them up.**



Now for the GOOD news.

You can slow or even reverse those strength declines by adding strength training to your schedule just a few days a week. If you're like me, you'll do whatever it takes to keep those freedoms as long as you can. By including functional strength training in your week, you'll find yourself moving through life easier, feeling healthier, and more excited to do the things you love to do.

If you already walk, run, do the elliptical or some other type of cardiovascular exercise, that's great! That's an important part of your overall fitness routine. Keep that up! That's not exactly strength training though.

As the saying goes, "strength is gained in the ranges trained," so if you never bend your knees or use resistance with your upper body, you'll lose your ability to do that over time. We've even had members who could run a marathon, but couldn't take a knee on the floor without assistance.

So where should you be right now? Scan the QR code below to see the 7 strength standards you should be aiming for in middle age. You'll also unlock a free 2-week membership for personalized strength training with our professional coaches.

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AnnArborObserver

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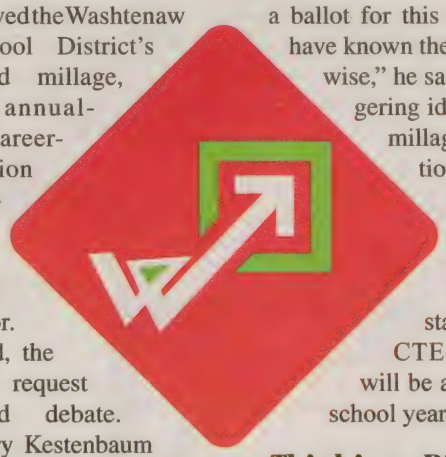
New Millage: On November 4, Ann Arbor voters approved the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's (WISD) proposed millage, levying 1 mill annually for student career-technical education (CTE). The measure passed at just over 54 percent—about 36,000 ballots cast in favor.



While approved, the $25 million tax request generated heated debate. County clerk Larry Kestenbaum says he was surprised it passed. "I didn't think the millage had a good chance because there was opposition. Ordinarily, millages with organized opposition fail," he says. "The fact that it passed is significant."

Leading the opposition was Citizens Against Regressive Taxes, spearheaded by former councilmember Kathy Griswold. The grassroots coalition cited concerns that the millage would be an undue tax burden, that CTE is already available, and that AAPS hasn't proven to be fiscally responsible.

Kestenbaum also ascribes some of the opposition to ballot fatigue. "It's not a good look to schedule a special election just for this, when [WISD] could have put it on a regular election ballot for free," he says, adding that the special election cost them "something in the order of a million dollars."

Reddit and Facebook threads garnered hundreds of comments referring to "yet another tax hike" in the district, relatively high property taxes, and the millage's potential impact on the housing crisis.

Kestenbaum also notes that while the millage passed by a comfortable margin, several of Ann Arbor's precincts resisted—an anomaly given the city's political homogeneity.

The election introduced the permanent absentee ballot list, which Kestenbaum says will have major consequences for the future of election turnouts.

"Tens of thousands of people received a ballot for this election who might not have known there was an election otherwise," he says. "There's still this lingering idea that the way to pass a millage is to have a little election where only our friends vote. That's not going to be possible going forward."

In a November 5 statement, WISD says that CTE-related opportunities will be available as early as next school year.

Thinking Bigger: The Downtown Development Authority's new development plan includes up to $21 million for improvements to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. This may come as a surprise, since in 2017, a $1.5 million plan to build a year-round pavilion on a vacant lot facing Fourth Ave. was shelved because of cost.

DDA director Maura Thomson puts the DDA's overall contribution at $13 million, emphasizing that the concept is speculative. "It's a price estimate," she says. "Thirteen million is what DDA *could* contribute."

The amount of work required grew in early 2023, when manager Stephanie Stauffer realized the foundation of the building where she worked was eroding. "When that building was deemed structurally unsafe," says parks deputy manager Remy Long, "it expedited this pre-existing plan and bumped it up" on the priority list.

The office was demolished last summer. With Stauffer and her staff working out of a shipping container, the need for some kind of new building is obvious. But it appears that much of the expanded budget would go to invisible infrastructure: the new plan calls for sustainable energy and stormwater elements.

Capturing stormwater can be expensive in a fully developed urban site like the market. Before Lewis Jewelers could build a new store and mini-mall next to Westgate a few years ago, for instance, crews had to excavate the entire site to bury massive underground storage tanks.

Like Thomson, city administrator Milton Dohoney emphasizes that the concept's price tag depends on yet-to-be-determined plans. "You're talking about something that's under a partial structure now," he says of the market's Depression-era sheds. "Do we want it to be something a little more elaborate than that? Do we want to have a better set of office facilities? Do we want to have some kind of structure that would allow it to function easily year round?"

Those answers will come through a visioning process expected to start early next year. "Changing or evolving the Farmers Market is not something you want to do frequently," Dohoney says. "You want to make one smart decision that's informed by the public before you go forward."

The first step will be issuing a request for proposals to manage the public engagement process. Long had hoped to do that by year end, but Dohoney says it's now looking like early 2026.

HERD Mentality: "I'm so glad you asked about HERD," Ann Arbor's Home Energy Rating Disclosure Ordinance, says Julie Roth, energy manager for the city's Office of Sustainability and Innovations. "It's safe to say that Ann Arbor has one of the most robust residential consumer protection programs in the country."

Last fall, city council passed the HERD ordinance as part of its commitment to the A²ZERO plan, which aims to neutralize the city's carbon emissions by 2030. Currently, housing accounts for 23 percent of those emissions directly through heating, cooling, and electrical usage. The ordinance requires homesellers to schedule a home energy audit through the OSI and publish the score (from one to ten) in real estate listings.

"You wouldn't buy a car without knowing its MPG rating," Roth points out. "A house is the biggest purchase many of us will make, and buyers deserve to be made aware of what they're getting into."

Between its enactment in September 2024 and November 1, 2025, 1,311 of the homes sold in Ann Arbor—97 percent of the total—have obtained HES scores.

City inspectors evaluate the homes' envelope (foundation, roof, siding, walls, windows, and insulation), HVAC systems, appliances, and water heaters. Inspectors also include a report with specific (and optional) recommendations with an expected payback of ten years or less. And the city offers significant financial rebates for upgrades to insulation, HVAC, electrical panels, wiring, and replacing of energy-guzzling appliances.

"I fully support the climate action plan and green upgrades of residential homes," says Sandi Smith, a broker with Trillium Real Estate. "But HERD has not been well received by the Realtor community. Many real estate brokers from outside Ann Arbor represent buyers and sellers here—and they are unaware of the requirements. I haven't seen any seller take action on the recommendations—and few if any recommendations outlive the costs of doing them. New siding, for instance: the payback is twenty-two years, not ten."

While she reports that the OSI has been "pretty responsive" in scheduling the inspections and submitting the reports, ultimately she says she's seen no impact on home sale prices.

She adds: "The deciding factor for most Ann Arbor home buyers is not energy efficiency, but proximity to the downtown or the university or hospital." ■

ILLUSTRATIONS: TABI WALTERS

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Last Call on CLUP

City council approved the third draft of a new Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) in October, opening a last window for public comment as it moves toward adoption next year.

MARK BIALEK

Jeff Crockett, a resident of the Old Fourth Ward, spoke against his neighborhood's Transition designation at a November 18 planning committee meeting. Historic districts, he said, "provide density at a human scale."

It's been in the works for more than two years, and controversial since the first draft was released last spring ("Small Town/Big City," June). The plan called for four-unit buildings anywhere, and planning commissioners had just voted to allow them to be up to forty-eight feet tall.

In the uproar that followed, city council asked planners to pull back. They did, a little: the next draft trimmed the number of units allowed in "Residential" districts to three, and the height to "approximately 3 stories." That's unchanged in the third draft, which continues to call for more high-rises in expanded "Hub" districts downtown and on the periphery, and low- to high-rises in "Transition" zones around downtown and along transit corridors.

"There are some residents who think that this is a very progressive way forward, that we are allowing more options and flexibility for people," principal planner Michelle Bennett says. "And then there are people who are established in those neighborhoods that have a lot of concerns about what a greater density in their neighborhood might look like."

Ann Arbor currently houses roughly 123,000 residents and has around 80,000 commuters traveling to the city daily. A major goal of the CLUP is to create housing so some of those commuters can live closer to work.

"From the planner's perspective, we question that maybe growth has been stifled because we haven't allowed more options for more people to move here, and that it's become a very exclusive community overall," says Bennett.

The hope is that adding housing near transit will allow residents to get around more easily, expanding housing options while keeping environmental impact low. "Growth is inevitable if you live somewhere that's desirable and you have a massive economic engine like the University of Michigan on your doorstep," Bennett says. "It's our job to plan responsibly, and that's the purpose of this plan."

The Ann Arbor Neighborhood Network, which formed to fight the changes, continues its calls to "Pause The Plan." Another vocal contingent, Neighbors for More Neighbors, has emerged in support of the CLUP. People on both sides of the issue were quick to chime in at a November 18 planning commission meeting.

Former city councilmember Kathy Griswold emphasized the importance of walkable neighborhoods and pedestrian safety. Observer contributor Ken Garber said the CLUP "falls way short" of its sustainability goals. Former city councilmember and planning commission chair Kirk Westphal raised concerns about the zoning for recreational facilities and open space that doesn't fall under the city parks designation, such as the Racquet Club of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Golf & Outing.

There was also robust discussion of the CLUP's relationship to the city's historic districts. Old Fourth Ward resident Jeff Crockett spoke against the Transition designation for his neighborhood.

"Historic neighborhoods provide economic diversity at the neighborhood level," he said. "Historic districts are more densely populated than other single-family neighborhoods, and have a greater variety of housing types, including rentals. They were designed from the beginning for mixed uses. They provide density at a human scale."

Susan Kaufman echoed Crockett's concerns, noting that Historic District Commission guidelines are "incompatible with the greater massing and height permitted in Transition and Hub land use categories underlying all or part of residential historic districts."

Alex Lowe, wearing a Neighbors for More Neighbors T-shirt, said, "I find the selling points of historic districts that other commenters have given to be very fascinating, because the very benefits that they're offering and claiming to be unique to historic districts are, in fact, what the comprehensive plan aims to make legal throughout the city—rather than just in small, exclusive areas that predate our exclusionary and racist zoning laws."

In an October council meeting, mayor Christopher Taylor pointed out that "Historic District rules will remain the same." And planning manager Brett Lenart noted that the Historic District Commission, not city council, controls its boundaries. But outside the historic districts, Bennett acknowledges that some residents are "concerned that we're changing the character of their neighborhood."

In fact, in draft 3, references to "preserving neighborhood character" were removed on the grounds that the phrase is coded language that, according to a city memo, was historically used for discriminatory and exclusionary purposes. Bennett acknowledges that that legacy may still carry over those consequences, even though it's no longer the intention.

But it's the planners' vision of increased housing density that's stirring up the most tension: the plan envisions more high-rises downtown and in fringe shopping districts, mid-rises along streets like Liberty, Packard, and Washtenaw, and three-story apartment buildings popping up in neighborhoods that are now entirely single-family homes. Supporters call this "gentle density," but many neighbors remain unconvinced.

The city is accepting comments online at engage.a2gov.org through January 5, 2026. The planning commission will meet on December 16 to review comments before public hearings and city council's adoption vote in early 2026.

Vision Zero in Hindsight

In June 2021, city council adopted its Moving Together Toward Vision Zero comprehensive transportation plan, which called for the elimination of traffic fatalities and serious injuries by the end of 2025.

Three months earlier, city staff announced a slightly less ambitious target: the number of fatalities and

STEVE FRIESS

Safety advocate and Transportation Commission member Peter Houk stands at the intersection of E. Huron St. and N. Fourth Ave., where in May, a seventy-nine-year-old in a motorized wheelchair was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver.

serious injuries caused by car crashes would fall below five per year. The two goals share one important commonality: failure.

Ann Arbor didn't just fail to hit either benchmark; the city has seen an *increase* in these incidents. In fact, 2025—the year that road utopia was to be upon us—saw the highest number of such accidents since 2014, according to data collected by safety advocate and Transportation Commission member Peter Houk.

"I think we need to be really honest that we made a strong commitment to Vision Zero, but implementation hasn't really kept pace with the urgency of the problem," says Dharma Akmon, a first-term councilmember elected in 2022 who also sits on the Transportation Commission.

City spokesperson Robert Kellar echoes this acknowledgement: "We must have an honest, and some may say uncomfortable, conversation about this very complex problem and what is, and isn't, within the power of the city to control. As the data reflects, we face some significant behavioral issues that can't be ignored."

Kellar declined to make city engineers or transportation staff available for interviews, saying they needed to save their ideas and analysis for a mid-November meeting of the Transportation Commission. "Our obligation to discuss this is first and foremost with them," he emails.

Yet the explanations are the same as they were in 2021—a need to reduce car speeds and improve safety at pedestrian crossings through signal timing changes.

In 2022, Houk launched his blog, Crashes In Ann Arbor, to highlight lessons he gleans from each major accident. "One of the things I didn't see was a critical look at what was causing the crashes," says the Ford manufacturing engineer, longtime downtown resident, and cyclist. "That's not to say that that work wasn't happening, but it wasn't being shared publicly."

Despite setting its Vision Zero goals in 2021, it was only this fall that the city launched its most ambitious initiative, Ann Arbor Roadway Rightsizing. The project will identify ten streets with four lanes or more that can be made safer by narrowing the roadway, adding protected bike lanes, and lowering speeds. The final public input open house before staff presents the list to the Transportation Commission is scheduled for December 10 at the downtown library.

"People drive slower because they have obstacle[s] nearby," Houk says. "Narrower lanes do that. Having fewer lanes does that. If we can have roads with fewer lanes and narrower lanes but smoother-flowing traffic, then we can move a similar amount of vehicles at an overall lower top speed."

Nobody who works for the city needs to go far to witness the problems. On a damp and chilly early November afternoon, Houk and I meet to visit three notoriously dangerous intersections along Huron St. within a couple of blocks of City Hall.

First on our tour is E. Huron and N. Division St., where in April a sixty-eight-year-old pedestrian was hit in a crosswalk by a car turning left with a flashing yellow arrow, or FYA. This particularly infuriates Houk because since 2024, he's been on an otherwise successful campaign to rid the city of FYAs when pedestrians are present, following three other crashes. Drivers, he says, take the FYA as permission to go but don't see the pedestrian, who has the right-of-way.

As of early November, twenty of the twenty-six such configurations in the city had been reprogrammed, three of which are at Huron St. intersections.

But Huron St. is owned and operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation, and Houk and Akmon say the state hasn't responded to city requests to fix the problem. The city has been trying to take over control of Huron St. so it can make these changes on its own, but MDOT has been slow to agree to an approach and financial arrangement for such a transfer. "While these two organizations are work-

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BIONICC BODY SCREENING

ing through their processes for making changes to the streets, people are getting hurt in preventable crashes," says Houk.

Next on the tour is E. Huron at N. Main where, in June, a pedestrian sustained a serious injury while crossing Main late at night. She had the walking signal, but the car, which had a green light to turn, didn't see her. Houk says there's a relatively simple fix for this, known as a leading pedestrian interval, which gives the walker a head start. It's already in use at the E. Huron St. intersections with N. Fourth Ave. and Division.

From there, we cross back to E. Huron and N. Fourth Ave., where a seventy-nine-year-old in a motorized wheelchair was struck and killed in May. The driver, who admitted to being intoxicated, now faces felony charges. But Houk says there were other contributing factors—it was dark and wet outside, the motorized wheelchair slowed down in the middle of the street due to an apparent malfunction, and the high-visibility pavement markings for the pedestrian crosswalk hadn't been repainted following recent roadwork.

"Eventually something's going to go wrong with any solution," Houk says. "We have a system where when people make mistakes, it can result in a fatality. And that's what happened here. People made mistakes and someone died."

If it sounds like Houk is questioning the idea of aiming for zero fatalities and serious injuries, he's not. "It's not stupid to want zero. There are ways to achieve it; other cities have achieved it," he says, pointing to Hoboken, NJ, which hasn't had a traffic fatality in almost nine years. "Yes, the numbers are going up every year, but this is not just an Ann Arbor problem. But how bad would things be here if Ann Arbor hadn't made the changes that they have made to bicycle infrastructure and crosswalks?"

Indeed, Akmon also points to various successes, including the narrowing of S. Main St. and a dramatic redesign of Pauline Blvd. between Stadium and Main. Lanes were narrowed, traffic humps installed, and posts added to the centerline. "It reduced speeds greatly and it reduced serious crashes," she says. "Even if someone crashes, going slower is the difference between a broken arm and a life-altering injury."

Akmon, too, doesn't blame the ambition of the goal for the failure to achieve it. "I ran for office on making sure people can get safely around our city no matter how they're traveling," she says. "The responsibility is on us. We're not moving fast enough on our most dangerous corridors. … We can't wait ten years for a capital improvement project to make these changes. We need to learn to make tactical, quick, cheaper changes that can be effective more quickly."

Extreme Makeover: Broadway Edition

On March 16, 2020, Eunice Choi, Realtor and owner of the Broadway Party Store, confirmed a permanent closure of her business with a handwritten sign stating "We are closed … Covid 19." Beyond the sign, sun-bleached bags of chips sat on shelves, and stocked display refrigerators stood dark.

The solid-brick Italianiate structure at 1027 Broadway St., built in 1874, is one of Ann Arbor's oldest commercial buildings. Named the August Herz Building, it was sold to Hisok Hi Lee and Jong Ok in 1992. Nearly three decades later, the property, operating as a party store, was sold to Hi Lee's daughter, Eunice Choi. And then, on that mid-March day in 2020, the sign appeared. There it sat, a party store from an earlier time, preserved in metaphorical amber.

MARK BIALEK

Chefs and business partners Kyle Young (left) and Bobby Rosenberger bought 1027 Broadway on the condition that they would preserve the historic building. They intend to turn it into "a dive bar with a fine dining aspect" called the Old Loon.

Chefs and Carrozza Pizza co-owners Kyle Young and Bobby Rosenberger had been eyeing the property and contemplating a new restaurant concept. Enter family friend and Realtor Stephanie Savarino, who, coincidentally, was one of the

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few people Choi would speak to about the property.

"I mentioned that the building had been sitting for a while, and if [Savarino] ever heard anything, to let me know. Stephanie called the next day," says Young. "Eunice was really intimidated and stressed by all the developers, so she invited us to walk through the building."

It wasn't pretty. Before closing, the Choi family had lost their certificate of occupancy, and Young says the building appeared to have been untouched from the moment they departed—there were unopened cases of beer and cans with expiration dates from the 1990s.

"I think condemned is probably not the right word," he says. "They were not legally allowed to occupy the building until there was some work on the chimney and stairs."

Choi agreed to sell Young the property under the condition that he worked to preserve the historic building rather than demolish it. "We told her we did not want to change a thing, and we would keep it as close to the same as we could," says Young. Lowertown Ventures LLC acquired the property in February 2023 for $2.1 million.

But the promise to preserve is easier made than kept.

As Young tells it, years of unpermitted work have taken their toll on the building. An AC unit was forced into place. An exterior staircase built without city oversight needed to be demolished. Two dusty refrigerators that were never properly installed caused occasional water leakage through the main-level floorboards into the basement, corroding the lower-level foundation. The ceiling and basement walls are both threatening collapse. Young estimates that bringing the property to code will cost upward of $1 million.

"There are floor joists fully hanging off the wall," he says. "The building has eight inches of lean in the floor. It is a ton of structural work that needs to be finished. From there," he continues, undeterred, "we will start building it out into a restaurant."

Their vision for the property is to open a bar and grill—"a dive bar with a fine dining aspect. It will be well-executed food with an approachable atmosphere"—that they'll call the Old Loon. The name change will mark the first time since 1958 that the property will be known as anything other than Broadway.

Of course, there's much to be done before the Old Loon opens its doors. Young says their work is in its infancy. They're currently doing a round of code review and figuring out a plan for renovations, which he says could start in "around six months." From start to finish, the renovations could take a year, and maybe two.

"We are working hard to deliver something cool to that neighborhood, and we want to make sure we are doing it the right way," says Young. "If I could snap my fingers and get it done now, I would."

Turnover Trouble

Once again, Dusty May has assembled a cohesive team from the chaos of the transfer portal. Now, about those turnovers…

In 2023, Michigan men's basketball set an unenviable record: most losses in program history. In the spring of 2024, athletic director Warde Manuel gave coach Juwan Howard his walking papers, and found himself mired in a different sort of athletic contest: national post-NCAA grabathon for the hottest available coach. Michigan won when Dusty May—who had turned a moribund Florida Atlantic University program into a national powerhouse—inked a five-year deal with the Wolverines.

As is typical with coaching transitions, most of Howard's squad scattered to the winds: five of his primary players transferred and three graduated. By the time the dust settled, May was left with Nimari Burnett, Will Tschetter, and six players he found in the transfer portal. Basketball is a game of synergy; bringing in players who don't know each other, have never played together—and doing so in limited time—is courting disaster.

But from game one, May's patchwork team established themselves as more than the sum of their parts. The Wolverines finished 17–6 in the Big Ten, won the Big Ten Tournament, and ran it out to the Sweet Sixteen in the NCAA, losing to

MARC-GRÉGOR CAMPREDON

Aday Mara goes up for a rebound in the Oakland season opener that Michigan won 121–78. Mara is one of four transfers that will form the core of this year's team.

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Inside Ann Arbor

national runner-up Auburn. By season's end, Michigan was rated number 21 in the country in fancy-stats algorithm KenPom.

The current college basketball world is nothing if not fluid, and five of May's transfers either graduated or left the program for other schools. Two freshmen also transferred, thrusting May into the portal world again.

And, again, it seems like he's delivered. He landed much-sought-after power forward Yaxel Lendeborg (University of Alabama at Birmingham), plus the starting point guard from North Carolina, Elliot Cadeau. He replaced two departing seven-footers with estimable centers Aday Mara (7'3", UCLA) and Morez Johnson Jr. (6'10", Illinois). Johnson is able to switch onto smaller players off a ball screen—a rare asset. Mara, less mobile, has advanced big-man skills and the unusual ability to pass out of the post.

The four transfers will form the core of this year's team, along with a handful of holdovers: guards Roddy Gayle and Burnett and forward Tschetter.

May also won a major recruiting war for true frosh (and five-star) combo-guard Trey McKenney. The Orchard Lake St. Mary's grad got offers from every major school in the country, but he's local (Flint) and has grandparents who attended U-M. Plus, May landed top-100 frosh and long-range shooter Winters Grady.

So, how has this latest iteration of the Wolverines fared so far this season?

Michigan opened against a well-coached but smaller Oakland team, winning 121–78 and setting several program records. This team can rebound the ball, and they can pass it, remarkably, from all five positions on the court.

Not only can May transform transfers into teams, he can also do the impossible and share honest opinions with the media without throwing his players under the bus or insulting the questioner. When asked, after a turnover-filled exhibition event, if "maybe, just maybe, you should slow it down," May responded without animus, "I think we need to play faster." That's what they did against Oakland—and they turned it over a mere eight times.

But that might have been a fluke. In a nailbiter of a game two against Wake Forest, Michigan had sixteen turnovers. May tried to play *three* bigs for chunks of the game, which seemed clunky. But Mara did what few thought he could, playing thirty-seven minutes, running the court hard, and racking up eighteen points, thirteen rebounds, six assists, and five blocks.

Wake Forest pressured the Michigan guards, and the Wolverines shot just 4–25 from the three-point line. But guard Roddy Gayle Jr. scored one when it counted, sinking the tying 3-pointer with just 1:44 left in regulation and sending the game into overtime, where Michigan eked out an 85–84 win.

If game two was a nailbiter, game three against Texas Christian University was a facepalm. The Wolverines' turnover rate was an ignominious 31.4 percent—nearly double the national average of 17.8 percent. Horned Frogs coach Jamie Dixon blitzed the U-M perimeter, turning the game into a WWE SmackDown. Nevertheless, Michigan prevailed. As the Observer went to press—wrapping right around tip-off of the Middle Tennessee matchup at the Crisler Center—the Wolverines were 3–0 for the season.

Further distinguishing himself, May doesn't deflect or minimize, which only encourages the media to try to back-door the answers he might be reluctant to express. "Aren't the high expectations for this team difficult for you and your staff?" he was asked after Oakland.

"I do think it's reassuring that people outside of your locker room believe in your guys," he responded. "They believe in your team, and so, yeah, I don't mind it at all." Droll? Well, yeah. What may seem difficult to many is reassuring for May.

calls & letters

Marten, not Martens

In the November Marketplace Changes story "For Sale: Lamp Post Plaza," we mistakenly identified the property's owner as Ron Martens. His last name is Marten.

Iyengar Yoga

In the November Inside Ann Arbor "The Yoga School's Uncertain Future," we wrote that "student Vicki Engel is concerned that the legacy of Iyengar yoga in Ann Arbor will be cut off." Vicki wrote in to clarify that she is concerned about the potential loss of the Ann Arbor School of Yoga's current home, not about the future of Iyengar yoga in the city.

Farewell, Question Corner

After twenty years, Question Corner is retiring. Since the segment debuted in July 2005, author Tim Athan answered hundreds of questions from readers across Ann Arbor. Although there are a handful that remained unanswered, there's one that Tim considers his white whale:

"I did everything I could to uncover the etymology of the street name 'Skynob.' Ann Arbor may be the only city in the world with a street named Skynob—and indeed, we have two!

"After I'd tried my usual sources I put inquiries into the mailboxes of the residents of Skynob Drive and Skynob Court. All that turned up was a response 'Please let me know what you find—I've been curious!'"

Readers, if you have an answer to slake Tim's curiosity, we want to hear it. And you can still feel free to send any of your questions to editor@aaobserver.com.

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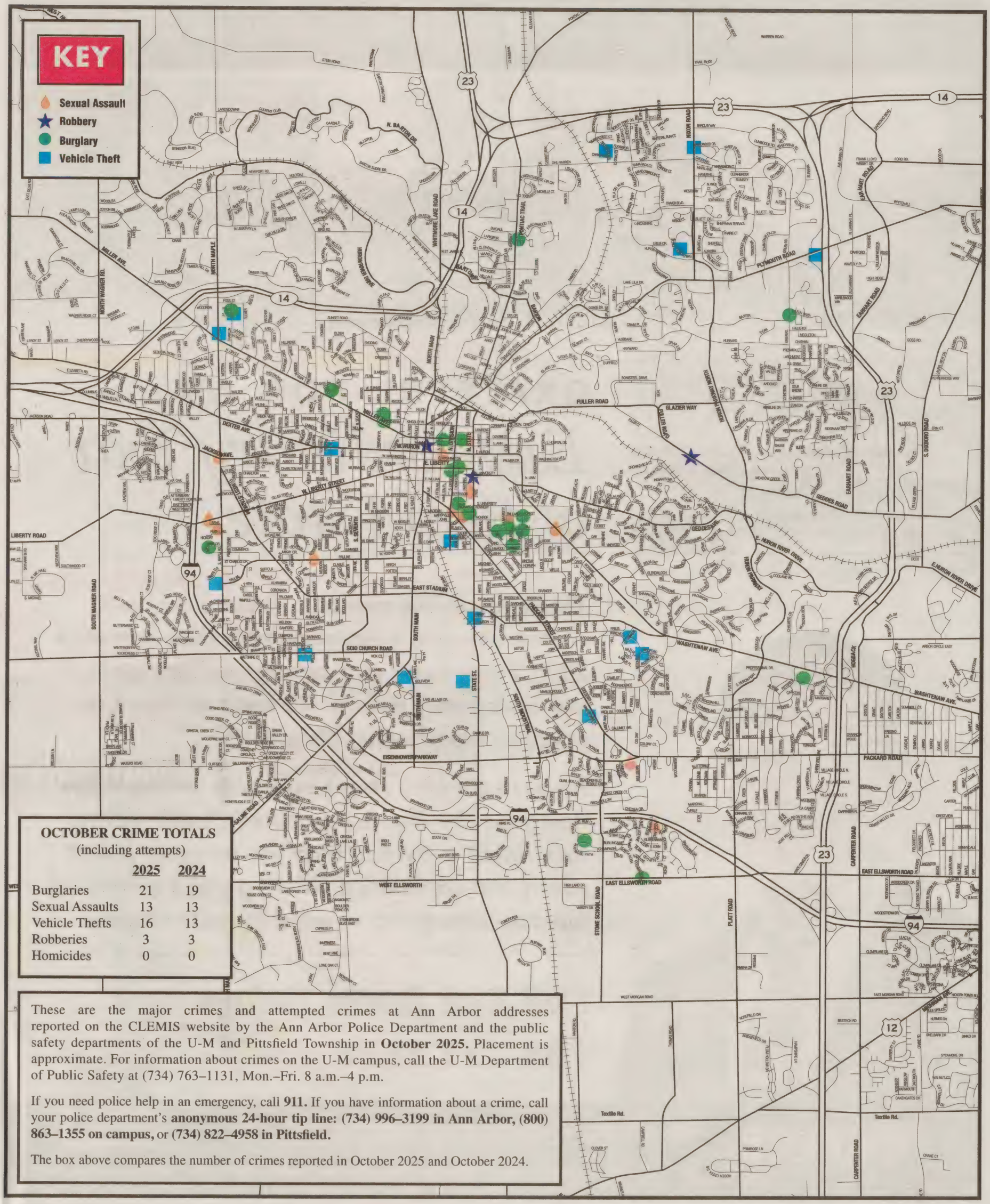

OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	2025	2024
Burglaries	21	19
Sexual Assaults	13	13
Vehicle Thefts	16	13
Robberies	3	3
Homicides	0	0

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported on the CLEMIS website by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2025.** Placement is approximate. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at (734) 763–1131, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: (734) 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **(734) 822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box above compares the number of crimes reported in October 2025 and October 2024.

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Fran Coy

A crown, a sash, and a life in hair

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

An eleven-year-old Fran Visel had two clear goals: to be Miss Saline, and to be a hairstylist. She made both of those dreams come true.

By the time she was eleven, Fran Coy knew two things she wanted to be: a hairstylist, and Miss Saline. At eighty-four, she's retired from her namesake salon on Wagner Rd., but remains close to the pageant she won in 1958—and that her granddaughter won in 2017.

In her home on Trinkle Rd., Coy perches on a comfortable leather armchair with a nebulizer nearby—a bout of pneumonia has given way to a lingering bronchitis. Her softly curled auburn hair frames her face, and a nail tech from her salon has just done her fingernails in her favorite shade of coral.

She was born Frances Visel, "on a farm about four miles from Saline," she says. "My mother died when I was one," leaving her the youngest of seven siblings. Her sister Toddy, fourteen, "left school to help take care of us until Dad found someone, a cousin, to take care of us."

When she was six, her father remarried, sold the farm, and moved to Saline. She and her sister Pat would sit by a heat register in their house on Michigan Ave. while Fran made "finger curls" in Pat's hair.

In 1951, her cousin Ann Taylor (now Tommelein) won the Miss Saline contest. "When I saw her being crowned," Coy recalls, "I thought, 'I would like to be Miss Saline.'" She took a trial run when she was sixteen in 1957. "The very first Miss Washtenaw County was going to be held in Ann Arbor," she recalls. "I got first runner-up." The next year, she finished first in a field of sixteen to become Miss Saline.

At Saline High she was in the junior and senior plays, but hair was what interested her most.

When the Guy Cari Ann Arbor Beauty College opened on Washtenaw Ave. in 1959, she saw her opportunity. "I talked with my principal and I said, 'My grades are good enough and I was going to be graduating that year.'" Could she miss school two afternoons a week to attend?

The principal said yes, but she needed a car to get there. "This is a funny story, because I didn't spell well, but I got a job at the *Saline Reporter* as a proofreader.

"I could see when something was wrong, but I didn't read well enough to write it correctly," she explains. "But all I had to do was mark it."

She saved her money and her father lent her the rest to buy a used Dodge Coronet. She practiced and practiced driving into and out of their narrow garage, learning so well that in a safe driving contest, she "beat all the guys because I could back up."

She excelled in hair styling, too. "I loved it. And I loved the teacher. She was fabulous." She graduated from both high school and beauty college in 1959, and was married the following spring. A week after returning from her honeymoon, she joined her beauty college teacher and two classmates in opening a salon called Tiara off W. Stadium Blvd.

She'd met Ed Coy two years earlier, at a square dance at the Pittsfield Union Grange. "I saw him from across the room," she remembers. "I flirted enough that he came over and he asked me to dance.

"He was in college at Michigan State, and his dad was a dairy farmer, so he went to college for the short dairy farming course." After a year off to serve in the air force, he finished the degree and farmed for more than a decade before switching to real estate.

Fran moved on from Tiara when her sister Toddy, who'd been living in Chicago, got divorced and moved back to Michigan. Together they opened the Magic Mirror salon on Jackson Rd. and built it to fourteen stylists before Toddy remarried and moved to Florida.

Ed then found the property on Wagner Rd. He told her, "'These are the payments,'" Fran remembers. "'Can you make them?' I said, 'I can make enough myself to make them.'"

Fran Coy's Hairstylists opened in 1977 with three other stylists and a front desk person. It's now Fran Coy's Salon and Spa and employs fifty, including twenty-five stylists.

The couple built their home on property that had been in the Coy family since the mid-1800s. Sons John and Todd grew up there, along with Vern, who started as Ed's farm helper and became one of the family. "He was in both of our boys' weddings. Our boys were in his," Fran says.

Todd now works in computer database management and lives in Saline with his wife, Molly, a regional manager for DTE. Their daughter, Amanda, was Miss Saline in 2017; she's now a physician assistant at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York.

John bought the salon in 2015. Though Fran officially retired, for many years she continued to style women's wigs and men's hairpieces, which are less physically demanding. "Unless something changes, that's [now] behind her," John says.

Ed Coy died in January. A photograph of him keeps Fran company on an easel by the window.

Though she has her own health issues, she still goes into the salon when she can. And when she does, says stylist Troy Girard, everyone "stands a little straighter."

She's also proud of a second legacy: in the 1980s, she persuaded the Saline schools to launch the Huron Valley Beauty Academy, a public-school program open to students from seven area districts. It "consistently has a waitlist for admission," says director Elaine Sines, and will open a new facility next fall.

Todd Coy's wife, Molly, is now co-director of the Miss Saline Scholarship Pageant. The family sponsors a scholarship, and at the Saline Summerfest in August, Fran was once again on hand for the crowning of the new Miss Saline.

"Because of going to the pageant once a year and because of how proud I am of Molly, it brings it back," she says, remembering her own day starring on that stage. "It's wonderful."

—Jan Schlain

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Finding my home in mental health advocacy

On a windy evening in late October, I sat in the impressive Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom, with its vaulted ceilings, arched doorways, and dark, wood-paneled walls. The event? The 19th Annual Prechter Lecture, hosted by the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Program, featuring keynote speaker Ellen Forney and moderated by program director Dr. Melvin McInnis.

The Prechter Program was founded and funded in 2001 by Waltraud "Wally" Prechter in memory of her husband Heinz, a pioneer in the auto industry who died by suicide at age fifty-nine after hiding his bipolar disorder all of his life. In 2004, the program shifted to the U-M Health System, and today it includes over 1,500 research participants. I'm one of them.

Before the lecture began, I took a moment to marvel at the fact that I was there, surrounded largely by strangers, and yet with a surprising feeling of belonging.

COURTESY OF MICHELLE YANG

Cartoonist, coach, and therapist-in-training Ellen Forney (left) was the keynote speaker at the 19th Annual Prechter Lecture. She's also served as a mentor to author Michelle Yang (right) during Yang's journey from internal stigma to mental health advocacy.

I was diagnosed with bipolar at age twenty and kept it secret for nearly two decades. Living in hiding meant constantly fearing what might happen if people found out.

Fighting both internal and external stigma became a means to survive, until I realized I couldn't advocate for myself or others without embracing this part of my identity. My diagnosis had brought relief—it proved my condition wasn't my fault and that treatment was possible—but I still hadn't known many others with bipolar disorder or any experts who specialized in it. I found my way to a National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) support group in Seattle, where I was living at the time. Through that support group, I discovered my voice as a mental health advocate.

In 2019, I attended the NAMI National Convention in Seattle. A presentation called "Bipolar Disorder: A Lifetime of Passion, an Unpredictable Journey" caught my eye. Walking into the enormous convention hall, the sheer number of people interested in and the number of researchers studying bipolar disorder gave me chills. For so much of my life, living with bipolar had been a solitary journey.

Dr. McInnis took the stage and introduced the groundbreaking, world-renowned work of the Prechter Program at the University of Michigan. Fascinated by the program's longitudinal study, ongoing since 2006, I was ready to sign up. I wanted to be a part of the solution to provide better treatments for people living with bipolar.

I could not have anticipated then what was to come. Less than nine months later, the Covid pandemic would shut down the world and everything would change. We would lose my father-in-law to cancer. My Michigan-born spouse and I would both become a part of the Great Resignation, leaving careers in Corporate America to move to Ann Arbor for what we hoped was a slower-paced, higher-quality life.

Fast-forward to 2023. At a poetry reading featuring writers affected by bipolar disorder held at the Pittsfield Branch of the AADL, I met the ever-kind and supportive marketing and communications manager of the Prechter Program, Rachel Bresnahan.

It was the beginning of a meaningful partnership. I was featured on a *Michigan Medicine Presents* podcast about living with bipolar disorder, where I discussed medication, relationships, and caretaking with the famous Dr. Sagar Parikh. Later, along with other volunteers—including Stephanie Prechter, daughter of Wally and Heinz—I spoke to students at U-M Stamps School of Art & Design who used our stories as inspiration to design mental health awareness posters.

Two years ago, at the 17th Annual Prechter Lecture featuring Bonobos apparel company cofounder Andy Dunn as keynote speaker, I served as a study participant panelist. After meeting at the lecture, Dunn offered to endorse my memoir, *Phoenix Girl: How a Fat Asian With Bipolar Found Love* (Fifth Avenue Press, 2025). And when my book was released, the Prechter Program sponsored a launch program at the Downtown AADL, with Bresnahan as my conversation partner.

This is how I eventually found myself at a welcome dinner at the Gandy Dancer for keynote speaker Ellen Forney, a mentor since my Seattle days. I was seated next to none other than Dr. McInnis himself. "I highly recommend the lobster bisque," he said, twinkling with excitement. "I'm getting a whole bowl. I'm hungry!" Of course, I had to order a cup to try with my crab cakes too. It was indeed delicious.

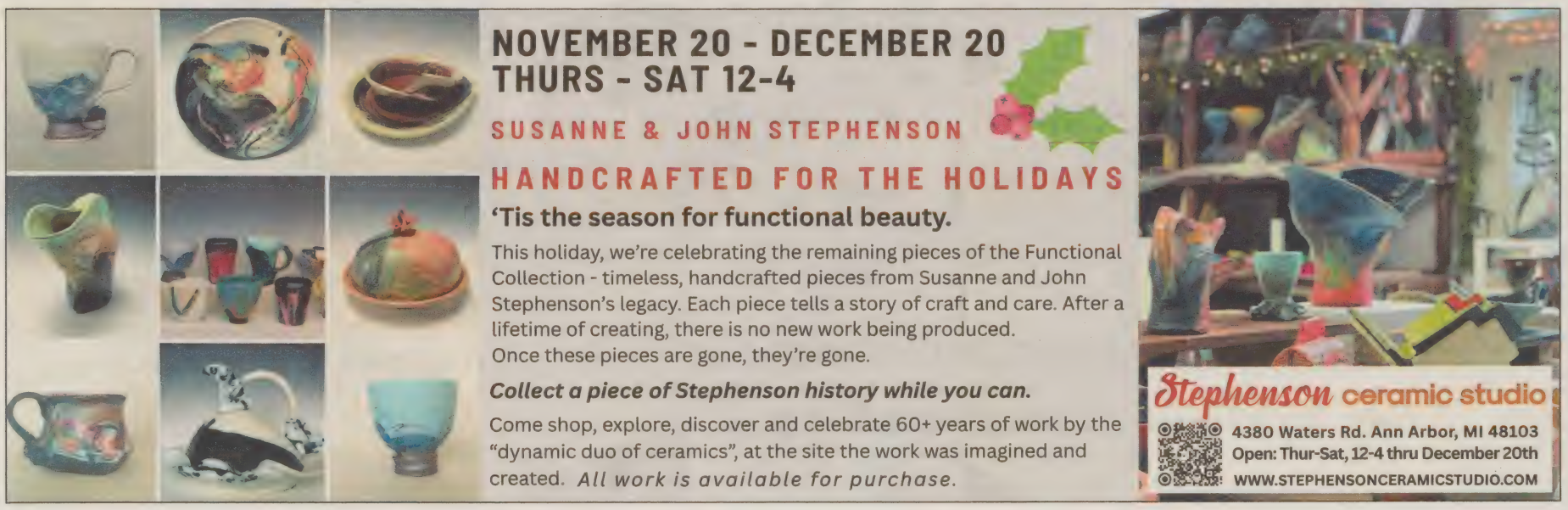
I marvel at how I came to live, completely unintentionally but serendipitously, in the same town as the premier bipolar research program in the world. And how is it possible that in less than four years, I would befriend its wonderful staff, director, professors, and even the program founders, who had all felt so larger-than-life to me in the past?

Back in the Michigan Union ballroom, Forney took the stage to deliver an inspiring talk to more than a hundred people affected by bipolar disorder. My deep sense of gratitude and belonging returned. I was surrounded by people from around the state who gather every year for this series. Forney, a cartoonist, author, and coach who is now studying to become a therapist, shared through compelling illustrations and storytelling the events that led to her bipolar diagnosis as well as her inspiring path to treatment. She talked about creative self-expression as part of her healing process and how she uses comics to help others.

Tabling at the lecture were two separate chapters of NAMI, including NAMI Washtenaw County where I have volunteered. What a full-circle moment, I thought. I am no longer hiding. These are my people, a bigger group than I've ever known. How remarkable that we are proud to come together, learn, and advocate for mental health wellness.

I'm reminded of something Wally Prechter once said: "If you truly believe in something, you owe it to yourself to help, to give, and to make a difference. Because ultimately, that is all you leave behind."

—Michelle Yang



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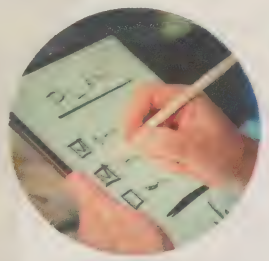

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Trailblazer

The City of Ann Arbor's first net-zero building will be named after its first female firefighter.

Construction is underway on Fire Station 4 at 2415 S. Huron Pkwy. The original building, constructed in 1966, was razed to make way for the city's first net-zero, carbon neutral facility, complete with solar panels and geothermal heating and cooling. The city broke ground on May 20 and expects to wrap construction by fall of next year.

The name of the new station is a nod to a pioneer: Mindy Kerr, Ann Arbor's first female firefighter.

MARK BIALEK (INSET PHOTO: SUZANNE COLES-KETCHAM)

Mindy Kerr stands outside the construction site for the new fire station that will be named in her honor. She joined AAFD in 1980, and remained the only female firefighter for ten years. By the time she retired, the thing that defined her was not her gender, but her twenty-five years of service to the department.

In a December 1985 Ann Arborite profile, Observer reporter Annette Churchill described Kerr as a "tall young woman [who] projects physical strength." Churchill writes that "it wasn't feminist zeal to break traditional employment barriers that led her to try for the job." Instead, it was a brief stint working at the Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities.

Reflecting on that experience in 2025, Kerr says, "all I knew in my heart of hearts was, I [didn't] want a desk job."

She was naturally strong, and loved being outdoors and helping people, so firefighting sounded like a good fit. The twenty-four-hour-on, forty-eight-hour-off schedule also appealed to her, because it would allow her to keep working at Meadowcroft Farm, where her family bred horses—a duty she performed before, during, and after her career with the AAFD.

So, in 1980, at the age of twenty-four, Kerr applied to the AAFD—unaware that there were no women in the department. She says she was lucky to have leadership that treated her fairly. Her first lieutenant, John Schnur, "just treated me completely as an equal," she says. "Completely professional, took me under his wing, showed me the ropes, never acted like I was any different than anybody else." And her battalion chief for her last fourteen years, Russ Taylor, was "*tough*, tough, tough, but fair."

It was Taylor who gave Kerr her first tour of the downtown fire station after she finished her training. Toward the end, the gruff chief told Kerr she had to take the pole back down to the trucks.

"We happened to be on the third floor when this discussion took place," says Kerr. "[And] there I am with my twenty-pound purse slung over my shoulder."

The first time sliding down a third-floor fire pole has to be intimidating, let alone with extra baggage. Kerr was nervous: Would she get stuck in the hole in the floor? Was she supposed to just drop her purse and then walk back up two flights of stairs to retrieve it?

"So finally I go, 'Okay, here!' I handed him my purse and I slid the pole, and then he had to slide the pole behind me with my purse on his shoulder." She laughs at the memory. "It was hilarious!"

It wasn't until 1990 that the AAFD hired another woman. Was it hard being the only female firefighter? "Absolutely," responds Kerr. There was a tension beneath the surface, a sense that all eyes were on her, and most of her colleagues were skeptical at first—some more vocally than others.

"Several of them came up to me on multiple occasions and said, 'Aren't your parents ashamed of you?'" she says. "'They paid for your degree at the University of Michigan, and here you are. You're just a firefighter.' And I said, 'No! They're so *proud* of me. They think this is awesome.'"

The heat didn't just come from within the department. Before her first day as a firefighter, a dispatcher warned Kerr that some of her colleagues' wives planned to picket the station. "That kind of put me over the top in the nervousness that I might have to cross a picket line … to protest a woman being hired," Kerr recalls. But the protestors never materialized, and Kerr wondered whether the rumor had ever been true.

She got her answer a few years later, in conversation with the wife of one of her colleagues at Station Number 6.

"She told me, 'You know, Mindy, I was one of the women that was going to picket the fire station the day you started. … Now that my husband is working with you, I'm honored that he gets to work with you.' That he *gets* to work with you," Kerr repeats, with emphasis. "It was just amazing to hear that."

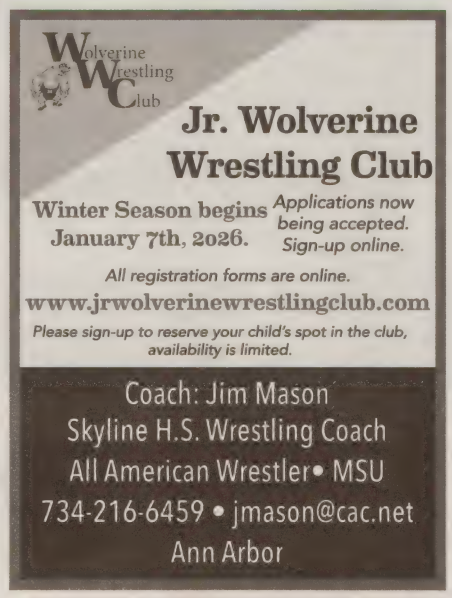
Her coworkers eventually got used to the change, treating her as a member of the team, especially once they got to know her and saw that she could do the job. By the time she retired in 2005, the thing that defined her was not her gender, but her twenty-five years of service to the department.

Including Kerr, twenty-two women have served on the AAFD. "The department currently has seven female firefighters … representing approximately 8 percent of our seventy-eight sworn personnel," says Fire Chief Mike Kennedy. According to the National Fire Protection Association's 2022 U.S. Fire Department Profile, women represent 5 percent of career firefighters in the U.S.

Tracey McCoy is one such recruit. A native of Aurora, Illinois, McCoy moved to Ann Arbor after college to join her sister, who was attending U-M. She originally planned to be a physician's assistant, but when that didn't pan out, she took a friend's advice and met with the director of the fire academy at Detroit's Schoolcraft College. That one meeting, McCoy says, "was like watching all of the pieces come into play, everything that I was interested in and wanted to do fell into place. I realized that this career really does embody everything for me—my character, my love of learning, my drive to serve others."

The AAFD hired McCoy while she was still completing the fire academy program. "Fire departments are hurting for people to apply," she explains. "Even ten to fifteen years ago, my colleagues were competing with hundreds of people for the job; that is no longer true. Departments will hire people with no training or incomplete training, like me. I got my hourly wage while I was in the program and was guaranteed a job when I finished."

This allowed McCoy a smooth transition, giving her a chance to get to know the role and the community before stepping into full-time firefighting—a role she has filled since May of 2023.



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Then & Now

Gender representation matters to Kennedy. "When I was appointed fire chief in May 2018, the department had not hired a female firefighter since 1998, a twenty-year gap that was completely unacceptable," he says. "Since then, we have worked diligently to expand opportunities and remove barriers to entry for women in the fire service."

One such opportunity is the four-year-old Blaze & Blue Career Camp, a joint program with the Ann Arbor Police Department designed to introduce young women to careers in fire and public safety. McCoy co-led Blaze & Blue for three years and will head up the program next year.

"Girls spend four days at the camp, two with us and two with the police department," she explains. "We run them through stations, go to our training stations at the Wheeler Center. They do some rappelling, ride in the bucket, cut up a car—basically practice doing what a firefighter does."

Kerr's advice to young women hoping to become firefighters is simple.

"Just like any other job, you have to want to do it. There has to be something about the profession that's really appealing to you," she says. "On the other hand, if it's something you really want to do, try not to let anybody stop you."

MARK BIALEK

"This career really does embody everything for me—my character, my love of learning, my drive to serve others," says firefighter Tracey McCoy. Next year, she will head the Blaze & Blue program, which introduces a new generation of young women to the profession.

Back in 1980, Kerr and fifteen other trainees underwent a 240-hour, five-week training program at the U-M Fire Training Academy. In the 1985 Observer article, she recalled 6 a.m. wake-ups and morning aerobics. There was classroom training on hazardous materials, first aid, and CPR, and practical training that included putting out practice fires, setting up ground ladders, and hauling a 130-pound weight up and down stairs (she practiced by carrying her boyfriend).

Kerr might have gotten off easy compared to today's recruits. The Schoolcraft fire academy program is a nine-week, full-time course where attendees obtain their fire certificates and pass the national fitness exam known as the Candidate Physical Abilities Test.

During the CPAT, would-be firefighters have ten minutes and twenty seconds to complete eight stations. The test begins with a three-minute stair climb while wearing a seventy-pound vest. After fifteen pounds are removed, the candidates complete a hose drag, where they pull and run with the hose around a barrel. Next up, they carry equipment, raise and extend a ladder, simulate a forcible entry, run into a pitch-black maze, do a rescue drag of a 165-pound dummy for seventy-five feet, and finally work their way through a ceiling breach.

"There is no difference between the age or gender for any prospective firefighters," McCoy explains. "The job doesn't change for anybody, and that is what I like to point out to people. I passed the same fitness test as everyone else."

The training may have changed, but some things about firefighting will always endure.

"You never know what's waiting for you on a run," Kerr said in 1985. It's a sentiment that still rings true.

"We are seeing someone on their worst day," McCoy shares. "Each call is different, each building is different, each fire is different, but seeing each crew know their part to put the fire out and keep everyone safe … it's like watching a masterpiece unfold. … All of us coming together, showing up at different times from different parts of the city, communicating what we see, knowing our roles, and leaning in and trusting that everyone involved are confidently doing their jobs makes you realize that all of us are working in harmony to make sure that this house is saved or to make sure that no one is injured."

On a spring day earlier this year, Kerr got a call from an unknown number. Normally she'd send it to voicemail, but her father had just gone into hospice, so she assumed the call was from a hospice worker… named Mike Kennedy.

"He said, 'Have you heard that there's a new Fire Station 4 being built?' And I said, 'Yes.' And then my mind starts going, boy, this is a weird thing for a hospice worker to ask me! And then all of a sudden it kicked in," says Kerr. "When he tells me why he's calling, it was such a roller coaster of emotions. You could have knocked me over with a feather. I literally had to grab onto the counter in the kitchen."

Kerr says she was stunned, humbled, and flattered at the news that Fire Station 4 would be named in her honor. There's only one thing about it that she doesn't like: at some point, she says, she's going to have to give a speech.

"You know, people have courage in different forms," she laughs, "and I literally would rather run into a burning building than speak in public."

—Patti Smith,
with reporting by Brooke Black

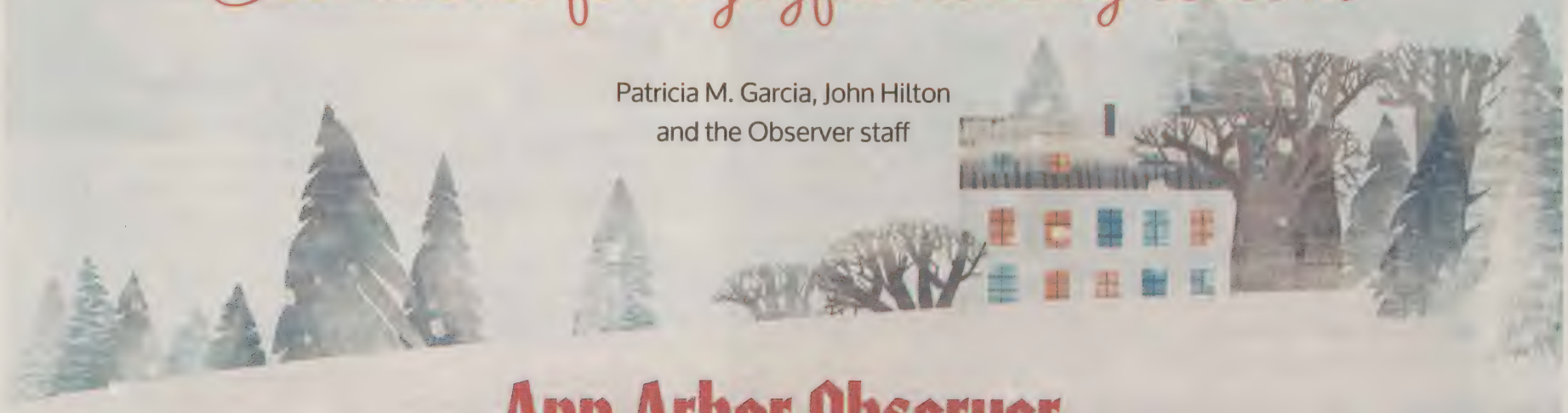
Thank you!

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to readers, advertisers, contributors, business colleagues, family and friends for reading and supporting the Observer throughout the year.

We are grateful.

Best wishes for a joyful holiday season!

Patricia M. Garcia, John Hilton
and the Observer staff



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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Food Gatherers held a series of food distributions in response to uncertainty about federal food benefits. In the first three events, they gave food to more than 600 households.

SNAP Judgment

Across Washtenaw County, nonprofits, businesses, and residents rallied in the face of funding uncertainty—and learned lessons in case it happens again.

by Micheline Maynard

On a chilly mid-November Wednesday morning, volunteers from Food Gatherers assembled in a parking lot at Briarwood Mall, outside JCPenney. It was the second in a series of four hastily announced food distributions following a freeze in federal food benefits.

Three rows of cars were already waiting, the line creeping back to the Briarwood Mall service drive, so Food Gatherers kicked off the event thirty minutes early. After checking in at tents reminiscent of those used by tailgaters at the Big House, each motorist received a box with forty-two pounds of food, including oatmeal, shelf-stable milk, canned chicken, a sack of potatoes, and squash.

The first three events distributed food to more than 600 households, says Food Gatherers CEO Elaine Spring.

The distributions came amid continued confusion over the status of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the federally funded system once known as food stamps. Beginning in late October, a series of court cases delayed, released, and again delayed deposits to SNAP recipients.

By the time the Observer went to press, benefits were restored. But the crisis acutely illustrated the level of need that exists across the community.

Nationally, 42 million Americans receive SNAP benefits, or about one in eight people. Michigan has approximately 1.4 million SNAP recipients—roughly 13 percent of the state's population—and according to 2024 Census data, 13,541 Washtenaw County households receive these benefits.

The MI Bridges program reviews the expenses, assets, and income of family members to determine eligibility. In 2024, the average monthly benefit in Michigan for a household was $335.05, or $173 per person, although some recipients get more and others much less.

Payments are made by electronic transfer and can be tracked on an app. Recipients can use the funds to purchase groceries—fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy and fish, cereal and snacks—but not alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, hot food, or cleaning supplies.

Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, signed into law on July 4, scheduled cuts to SNAP valued at $186 billion through the end of the decade. Currently, the federal government funds the entire program; by 2030, states will be expected to shoulder some of the expense. They will also have to pay three-quarters of the program's administrative costs, up from 50 percent.

But the complete halt to benefits during the congressional standoff caught Spring and others off guard. During the previous federal shutdown in 2018, SNAP continued without interruption.

"We did not anticipate a SNAP pause during the shutdown because there's never been a pause in SNAP," says Spring.

Colton Ray, a graduate student at EMU, kept checking the app in early November. His $290 monthly payment typically loaded on the fifth, but it didn't show up as scheduled.

Fortunately, his money showed up on November 7, in the initial wave of deposits made by the state amid the legal tangles. But Ray was already coming up with options if the funds didn't arrive.

Last summer, he found a chest freezer that someone gave away and began stockpiling frozen meals. Ray, who works at EMU's Swoops Food Pantry, planned to shop there for more groceries, and assembled a list of area locations where he could get deals on food. "I can find the right coupon or go on the right day," he says.

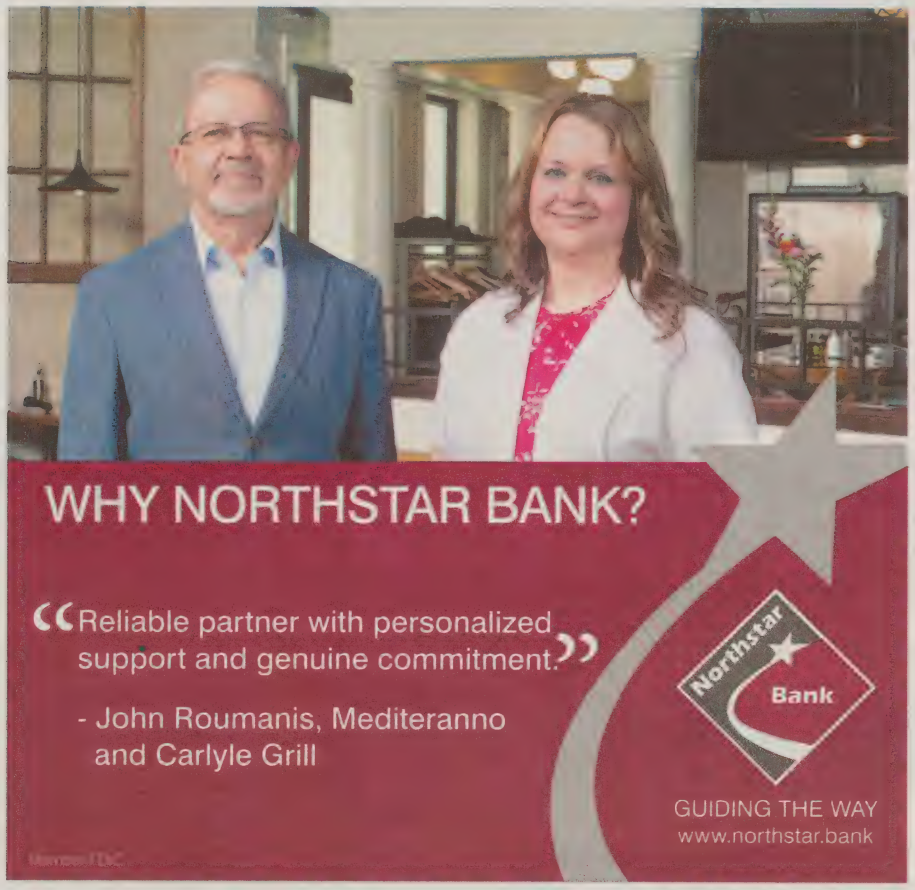
The SNAP delays came as a number of residents were already feeling the pinch of the government shutdown and steps taken by the Trump administration to cut assistance programs.

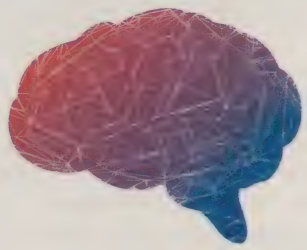
Last spring, President Trump ordered more than $1 billion in cuts by the USDA: $420 million was cut from Local Food Purchase Assistance, which enables funding for states to purchase goods from farmers and distribute them to food charities, and $660 million from Local Food For Schools, which gives schools money to buy locally sourced food for student meals. Aid provided through the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which purchases food and provides it to states to share with food banks, was either frozen or cut.

Meanwhile, some federal workers, such as those at the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory on Plymouth Rd., were dismissed earlier in the year. The shutdown furloughed others, while still others were expected to work without their scheduled pay, including employees at the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan.

Like other area food charities, Aid in Milan saw a jump in the number of people seeking help. Six years ago, before the pandemic, the food pantry typically served 125 households a month, says executive director Andrew Felder. In October, it fed 610. "October broke every record we had, and that was before the pausing of SNAP benefits," Felder says.

In the last week of October and the first week of November, Food Gatherers' website had 9,000 views, compared with 2,000 in the previous two weeks, prompting the site to crash briefly.





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SNAP Judgment

By early November, the average number of shoppers at Swoops Food Pantry rose to a hundred a day, compared with ninety-two in October. In the two-week period between October 27 and November 10, some 10 percent of new shoppers were on SNAP—up from 7.4 percent over the previous three months. And, with about 13 percent identifying as vegetarian or vegan, says Ray, Swoops was having trouble keeping tofu and alternative milks in stock.

Across Ann Arbor and around Washtenaw County, restaurants, businesses, and residents reached out to help the hungry. Detroit Filling Station, Palm Palace, Argus Farm Stop, Mama Pizza & Curry House, and Issa's Pizza were among those offering aid.

Blue LLama on Main St. is usually closed on Monday and Tuesday, but kitchen staff came in to make sixty meal boxes with black beans, rice, and collard greens. The meals were distributed during the lunch hour on Veterans Day to anyone who asked, while others were handed out at the Blake Transit Center a block away.

Blue LLama sous chef Shani Patterson, who was in New York City during the pandemic, came up with the idea after seeing restaurants feed first responders and hospital staff. Rather than ask patrons to show their SNAP identification, she decided to make it free to all.

"In Ann Arbor, which is an affluent area, you never know who needs it," Patterson said. The response to the meals "shows me that gap between us and food insolvency."

Patterson hopes to continue offering the food boxes—which she calls Community Family Meals, same as the Blue LLama employee shift meal—through the rest of the year.

In Saline, Mancino's Pizza & Grinders provided a free extra-large pizza to SNAP recipients, and gave away a total of 103 pies. "I just felt compelled to help," says owner Kevin Lawson. "I couldn't sleep at night knowing people were going to bed hungry." Customers phoned him to donate pizzas, including one who paid for ten pizzas and told him he now had a customer for life, Lawson says.

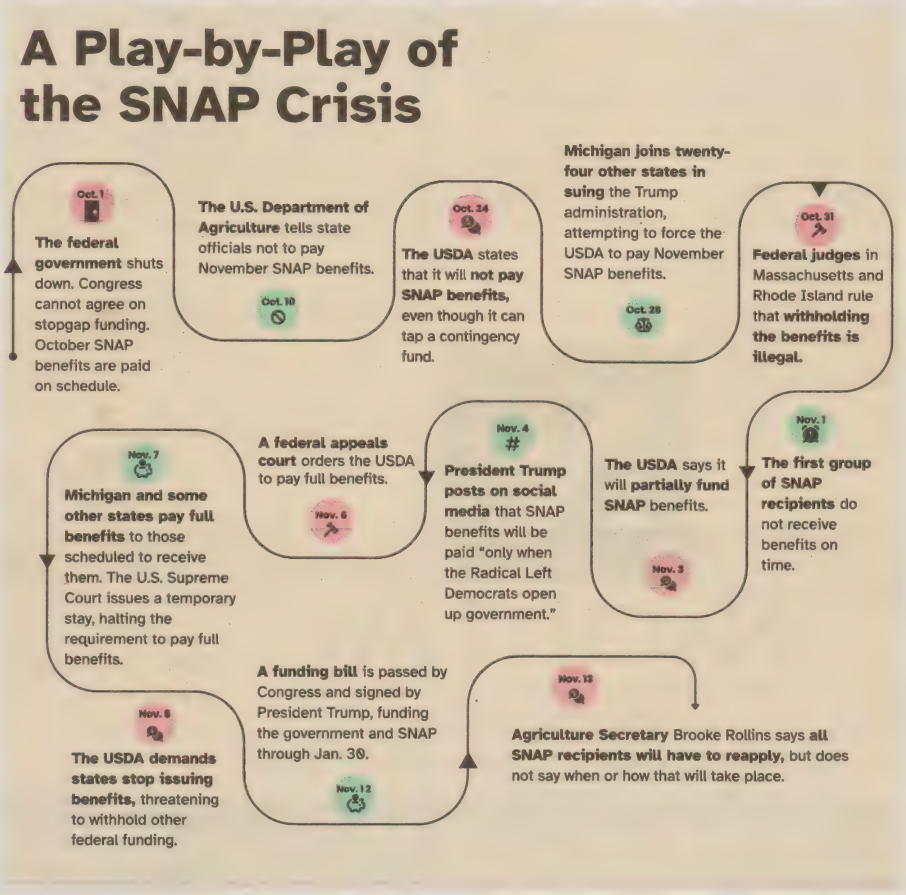
Meanwhile, Growing Hope partnered with the Ypsilanti Farmers Market to offer the Ypsi SNAP Gap, providing $40 in food tokens for SNAP recipients and anyone food-insecure to use at the market each week. The tokens, available through March, can be exchanged for any market food item, including the hot meals and prepared foods that SNAP normally does not cover. The Ann Arbor Farmers Market lifted the $20 match limit for Double Up Food Bucks, which gives SNAP recipients two-for-one deals on fruit and vegetable purchases, and offered an unlimited match until December 31.

Community members have also donated money. The giving circle Ann Arbor Women for Good voted to give this quarter's donations to Food Gatherers; so far, they've raised $6,300 of their $8,000 goal. And students at Community High School, who stage an annual fundraiser to support Food Gatherers, set a $100,000 goal for this year's drive (last year they raised a record $97,000). By press time, the Community High Fights Hunger drive topped $82,000.

But these efforts can't completely offset the impact the SNAP has on the area.

"SNAP is not replaceable," says Markell Lewis Miller, Food Gatherers' director of community food programs. "We

A Play-by-Play of the SNAP Crisis



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Blue LLama sous chef Shani Patterson aims to offer Community Family Meals to those in need through the end of the year.

can do our best to mitigate the impact of SNAP in a month but it's logistically and economically not possible to replace it."

Even while searching for solutions to the SNAP situation, lessons were emerging.

Lesson One: even seemingly financially secure households may be only a paycheck or two away from needing aid. Officials at multiple food charities say the food crisis drew in people their organizations had never seen before.

"You have people who grew up their entire lives without needing to rely on a pantry," Aid in Milan's Felder said. Among federal employees, "there is a whole group of people who have considered themselves to be relatively middle class. Their minds don't go to receiving aid. They go to making a donation."

Lesson Two: Ann Arborites are eager to help. "We live in a community that's incredibly supportive and responsive," Miller says.

While she's impressed with how quickly the food drives emerged, she also stresses that in an unexpected crisis, money helps the most. "Cash gives us the flexibility," Miller says, saving precious time for volunteers and staff.

"We can take a dollar you would spend at the grocery store and stretch it much farther," adds Felder. But he doesn't discourage anyone from contributing goods. "If that's what feeds their soul, that's what I want them to do."

And Lesson Three: Even though SNAP benefits ultimately came through, there's still an atmosphere of preparedness—even caution—moving forward.

"We still don't know what December will look like," says Colton Ray. "So, I have to be very intentional about stretching the benefits."

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- Special music: Rutter's Magnificat, FCC Chancel Choir & Orchestra, during 10 a.m. worship
- Advent Afternoon of Fun: Crafts, pizza and gingerbread house-making, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21

- Special Blue Christmas music with Terry Farmer and the Change of Pace band, 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Wednesday, Dec. 24

- Living nativity, 4-8 p.m.
- Pageant with live animals, 5:30 p.m.
- Candlelight Communion, 8 p.m.

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American Heart Association.

Heart Attack Deaths Spike During the Winter Holidays

The American Heart Association urges people to be aware of and reduce risks for deadly 'holiday heart attacks'

The winter holidays can turn deadly as research shows that more people die from heart attacks during the last week of December than at any other time of the year. While being aware of the signs of a heart attack and taking steps to reduce your risk are important all year long, the American Heart Association, devoted to changing the future to a world of healthier lives for all, says that's especially critical during the next few weeks.

A study published in ***Circulation***, the flagship journal of the American Heart Association, reported that more cardiac deaths occur in the U.S. on December 25 than on any other day of the year, followed by December 26 and January 1.

While you may not want to spend the holidays in a doctor's office or hospital, getting checked out and receiving prompt treatment if you experience symptoms is one of the best gifts you can give yourself and your loved ones for all the celebrations to come.

Giving the gift of life may also come into play if you see someone experiencing heart attack or stroke symptoms. If you witness someone having a heart attack and going into cardiac arrest, starting CPR immediately and calling 9-1-1 could be the difference in life or death in those situations.

The following are several heart-healthy tips for the upcoming holidays:

- ***Know symptoms and take action:*** Heart attack signs and stroke symptoms vary in men and women and it's important to recognize them early and call 9-1-1 for help. The sooner medical treatment begins, the better the chances of survival and preventing heart damage.
- ***Celebrate in moderation:*** Eating healthfully during the holidays doesn't have to mean depriving yourself, there are still ways to eat smart. Look for small, healthy changes and swaps you can make so you continue to feel your best while eating and drinking in moderation, and don't forget to watch your salt intake.
- ***Plan for peace on earth and goodwill toward yourself:*** Make time to take care of yourself during the busy holiday. Reduce stress from family interactions, strained finances, hectic schedules and other stressors prevalent this time of year, including traveling.
- ***Keep moving:*** The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Get creative with ways to stay active, even if it's going for a family walk or another fun activity you can do with your loved ones.
- ***Stick to your meds:*** Busy holidays can cause you to skip medications, forgetting them when away from home or not getting refills in a timely manner.

To learn the symptoms of heart attack and stroke, and for ways to live heart-healthy during the holidays, visit heart.org.

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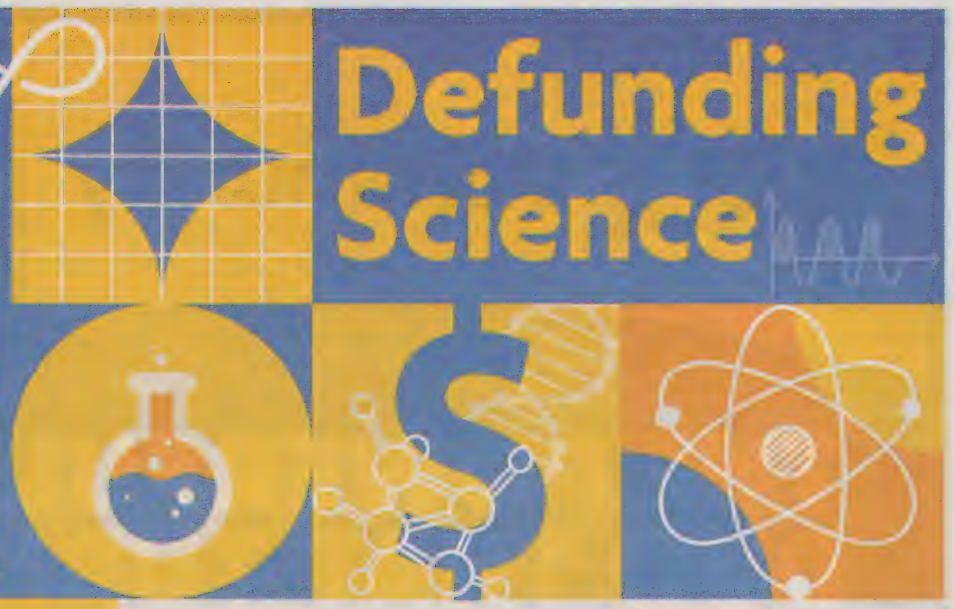
MARK BIALEK



With federal budget cuts threatening to cancel satellite missions that measure carbon dioxide emissions, U-M climate scientist Gretchen Keppel-Aleks fears for the future of her research projects.

The Trump administration's drive to slash research funding is sending shockwaves through the U-M.

by Ken Garber

Hanging on a wall of Nils Walter's office in the U-M Chemistry Building is a poster for one of his seminars, entitled "Can RNA Do It All? From Spawning Life on Earth to Fueling Modern Personalized Medicine."

Walter, a biophysical chemist, has been exploring this theme for more than three decades. Over that time he's seen what he calls an "explosion" of RNA research, including the Nobel Prize–winning work that enabled the mRNA Covid-19 vaccines. The future for RNA medicines, he says, is bright—including at U-M.

But there's an imminent threat to this promising research: massive cuts to the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) proposed by President Trump, which Walter says "would really devastate the progress that can be made."

That fear is rippling across campus. The federal government, which funds over half of all U-M research, disbursed $1.25 billion in the 2025 fiscal year. But the U-M is budgeting for 11 percent less overall federal support for the current year as the Trump administration shrinks the agencies that provide the grants.

Last summer, the Department of Health and Human Services terminated at least fifteen U-M grants totaling $5.4 million, mostly for ethnic minority and transgender health studies, and for vaccine and pandemic research. The U-M School of Public Health canceled new epidemiology PhD program admissions for 2026. Layoffs and resignations at funding agencies, sudden policy changes, and a federal budget that remains in limbo despite the November reopening of the government have made the future of scientific research on campus precarious. And speaking out publicly runs the risk of government retaliation. "We will decline any interviews," writes Michigan Medicine senior director of public relations Mary Masson. "I don't have any information to share regarding your questions [on cancer research funding]."

Many of the U-M's 8,000-plus faculty members and roughly 6,000 PhD students are now experiencing a previously unknown level of anxiety and uncertainty. "We are all in this situation," writes mechanical engineering professor Jesse Capecelatro.

Climate scientist Gretchen Keppel-Aleks was chair of her department's diversity, equity, and inclusion committee until its recent disbandment. Now she fears for the future of her research projects on the natural global carbon cycle and on wildfire risks and climate feedbacks in northern Canada and Siberia.

The threat to her work exists irrespective of the U-M's budget: her research relies on the two Orbiting Carbon Observatory satellites, which measure plant growth and land and ocean carbon dioxide emissions from space. These ongoing missions could be canceled, pending the final 2026 NASA budget. Europe should launch a similar satellite late this decade, but Keppel-Aleks says "having gaps in the data record right now is particularly dangerous" for the rapidly heating high latitudes that she studies.

Other researchers rely on the satellites for modeling and predicting permafrost melting, hurricane activity, Amazon rainfall, and other effects of global heating. This research also relies on ground-based CO_2 detectors in Hawaii and Alaska. But the NSF may terminate those, too.

In a September speech at the United Nations, President Trump called climate change a "con job" and a "green scam," amid other falsehoods. His agency heads are behaving accordingly, with science itself the casualty.

"It's a huge danger," says Keppel-Aleks. "We would not be able to do greenhouse gas or carbon cycle science without those observatories. … It still shocks me that the current administration is willing to shut all this down."

Fortunately, most current grants are still funded. "There has certainly been chaos, but it hasn't affected the university in the most severe way, as it could have," says Walter.

He did have to wait seven anxious weeks over the summer for the annual installment of a $3.5 million NIH grant to come through. The holdup had nothing to do with science—instead, the money was withheld because the NIH demanded the U-M comply with newly reinterpreted antidiscrimination laws, a demand that was later withdrawn.

Walter co-leads the U-M's Center for RNA Biomedicine, "the biggest aggregation of RNA researchers in the world," he says. Many work on messenger RNA (mRNA), the basis for most Covid-19 vaccines. Long considered an inert carrier of information from DNA to proteins, RNA in various forms is now known to regulate a vast array of cellular processes.

And RNA, in addition to Covid-19 vaccines, is the backbone of FDA-approved drugs for vision loss, muscular dystrophy, and several rare genetic disorders. The U-M is strong in this area of RNA medicine, says Walter, whose lab also works on RNA antibiotics. For example, Walter's colleague Michelle Hastings developed a personalized RNA drug that is now being used to treat twin girls with Batten disease, a rare neurological disorder that usually leads to death in the late teens or early twenties.

Fundamental research, says Walter, delivers insights that promise to transform medicine. But President Trump recently proposed a 40 percent cut in the budget of the NIH, by far the U-M's largest research funding agency. If enacted, "those cuts will be devastating to discoveries in the health sciences," Walter says.

Already, the NIH, besides canceling or pausing many mRNA vaccine–related grants, has asked for an accounting of all mRNA research, which could lead to more cuts due to the politicization of such work. And the NIH recently started paying out grants in lump sums, instead of yearly installments. That leaves less new grant money available, at least for the next several years.

In response, the U-M's RNA center, which is planning a new mRNA initiative focused in part on anticancer medicines, is pivoting to nonfederal sources for possible funding, including the state of Michigan and private companies. But NIH funding isn't easily replaced, because companies and foundations don't have the budgets—or the mission—to support fundamental research on anything approaching that scale.

Walter says that with NIH grant scoring thresholds "dropping like crazy," young scientists in the U.S. are looking abroad for opportunities.

"It might devastate a whole generation of assistant professors," he says.

Trump has proposed cutting the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U-M's second biggest federal funding source, by a staggering 57 percent next year. "That would be devastating," says U-M physics professor Keith Riles, who hopes that Congress ultimately approves much smaller cuts, if any.

The gravitational waves predicted by Albert Einstein in 1916 as part of his general theory of relativity were finally observed a century later by the U.S.'s two detectors, located in Louisiana and Washington state, a discovery that won the 2017 Nobel Prize in physics. Riles has worked on the project since 1997. His work illustrates the kind of team effort that produces these transformational scientific discoveries—and that these budget cuts are threatening.

Riles and his colleagues fear that the cuts will cause the NSF to shut one detector down, which would cripple the field's future prospects. By continuing to improve and operate the detectors, says Riles, "we could look further back in the universe and understand the formation of these objects like black holes and neutron stars. The more of these that we see, the better we'll understand the history of stellar evolution in our universe."

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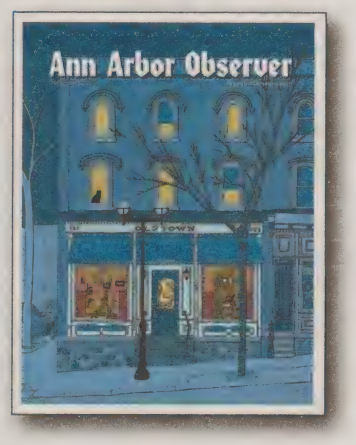

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Defunding Science

Why should that matter to the average person? "Those of us who do this sort of research, we do it because we want to understand how the universe works," Riles says. "But in order to make these kinds of measurements, to push the frontier, one has to make technological advances that can yield payoffs to the broader economy." He cites lasers and the internet as examples.

Such breakthroughs also inspire students to pursue technical careers. "Just driving the frontier of science, revealing what has previously been unknown to us, is something that a lot of people find exciting," says Riles. "And it certainly is a motivation to young people, who might have the interest and the talent to succeed in science or engineering."

The funding crisis has left these researchers worring about the next generation of scientists. Riles says he's been "leery" about recruiting new members, and Keppel-Aleks probably won't offer any new PhD positions in her lab next year, because she can't be sure of funding. "We're destroying our space pipeline," she says, "and I think we're also destroying the infrastructure of this [career] pipeline."

Vanishing job prospects in U.S. science are also turning students away.

"Making a case to the best and brightest to come [to U-M] to and get a PhD while national labs are being decimated is going to be a hard lift," says Keppel-Aleks. "Even if we had the funding to bring new PhD students on, the PhD students here are definitely feeling a lot of stress and uncertainty about what they're going to be able to do with their degree."

Given these cuts, says Walter, the critical global role of U.S. science, combining generous support for curiosity-driven research and an entrepreneurial ecosystem, could end.

"If the U.S. doesn't want to play this role any more, that will hurt everyone," he says. "That will hurt the entire world."

MARK BIALEK

U-M senior and international studies major Tyler Nguyen says the Southeast Asian Studies program helped him explore the makings of his American identity. The funding cuts have only strengthened his resolve to one day work for the federal government.

Federal Funding Cuts Hit International Education

On September 10, the U.S. Department of Education abruptly canceled all federal funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs across the country, including the U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS).

According to the Department of Education's FY2026 budget summary, the funding cuts stem from a broader policy decision to eliminate programs deemed "inconsistent with Administration priorities and [that] do not advance American interests or values."

In an email to the CSEAS community, director Mike McGovern said he was "sad and, frankly, ashamed" to deliver the news, noting that the decision undermines decades of work fostering understanding between the U.S. and Southeast Asia.

For Tyler Nguyen, a senior majoring in international studies with a concentration in Southeast Asia, the news felt deeply personal. As the son of Vietnamese refugees, the program has helped him explore the makings of his American identity.

"It's literally through programs like CSEAS that I've dived into how refugees have made it in this country, starting new lives and families in spite of war, displacement, poverty, and violence. America has been home to a generation of Southeast Asian refugees for more than fifty years," he says. "To claim that Southeast Asian Studies does not advance 'American values' sends a message to our communities that we have never had a claim here. But we are here. I was born here. My family are all citizens. I've never been to Vietnam. This is the only country I've ever known."

The loss of federal funding represents a 20 percent cut to the annual budget for the U-M International Institute (II), which hosts programs like CSEAS. The funding had supported instruction in eight less commonly taught languages, including Vietnamese, as well as paying for nine lecturers and nearly 80 classes over the last two years. The loss endangers the fellowships and resource centers that have made U-M a leader in world language education.

In his email, McGovern vowed that the CSEAS "will continue and indeed thrive," pledging to find new ways to sustain its programs and partnerships. And on December 5, II is holding a Languages Summit to discuss strategies for moving forward.

For Nguyen, the setback has reinforced his dream to work for the federal government. "I hold dual identities, not dual loyalties. I am an American, but will not sign off on government cruelty, past or present," he says. "I want a government that cares about our well-being and respects human dignity. That's why I study what I study."

—Michelle Yang

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Draft 3) is in the Final Phase to Review & Comment!

Commenting closes: MONDAY, JAN. 5, 2026

https://url.a2gov.org/comp-plan

The Zingerman's Times

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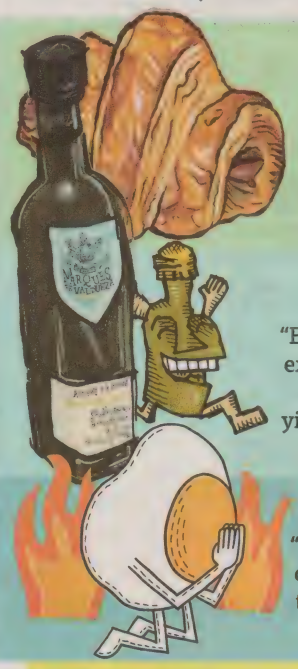
Revealed: Zingerman's Favorite Foods Of 2025

peruse (& procure) these popular picks

An anonymous, flavorful-food fanatic tipped off *Times* investigators to a few of the 30 artisan foods on Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig's list of the best of 2025. Considering that Zingerman's Community of Businesses sources hundreds of prized items each year, the list could be seen as the best of the best. Here are just a few of Weinzweig's recommendations for your next shopping or gift list:



cultured butter croissants from zingerman's bakehouse

"By starting to use the Vermont Creamery Cultured Butter in the croissants, what has long been really good, just got better still. ... The flavor and aroma are both bigger, more complex, and more buttery."

2024 harvest olive oil from marqués de valdueza

"Everything about this special oil speaks to its excellence. The olives are all carefully picked by hand, quite early in the autumn, when yields are significantly lower, but the flavor is far more interesting."

little kim's eggs in purgatory

"This dish from Chef Ji Hye Kim is at the top of my list. It's got a great gochujang-spiked tomato marinara, lots of tender chickpeas, all topped with a sunny-side-up egg."

Taste your way through some of his list, with the stories behind the food and their producers as told by Weinzweig himself. Zingerman's Delicatessen offers in-person events on two Tuesday evenings—December 2 and 9. **Reserve your spots at zingermansdeli.com/events.**

For the full list of Ari's Top 30 Favorites of 2024, see the Nov/Dec issue of the *Zingerman's News*, available at zingermanscommunity.com and every Zingerman's location.

Rumored Holiday Roast Return Confirmed

a buzzworthy limited edition blend

The *Times* coffee columnists got the scoop that the Holiday Coffee Blend from Zingerman's Coffee Company has returned. It's a ready-for-anything blend for holiday celebrations and is sure to warm up coffee lovers from the inside out. The Coffee Company developed the 2025 blend with beans from their longtime partners at Hacienda Miramonte in Costa Rica and Daterra farm in Brazil. The result is a blend that is rich, layered, and silky smooth, with notes of cocoa and just a hint of fruitiness. Managing Partner Steve Mangigian told the *Times*:

Their flavors are playing especially nicely together this year, leaving us with an unmistakable richness and smooth finish. Think toasted nuts, caramels, and a silky smooth texture. Comfort and joy in a cup!

Turn any day into a holiday—pick up a cup of this brew or a bag of beans at the Coffee Company, Bakehouse, Deli, Roadhouse, or zingermans.com.

Discovered: Outrageously Good Holiday Gifts

exceptional eats, delivered to their doorstep

The *Times* present professionals searched high and low to find unexpected gifts for your unique recipients. What was uncovered could elevate you to world's-greatest-gift-giver status in your inner circle. These gift ideas come from the experts at Zingerman's Mail Order, the spot *Food & Wine* called "One of 25 of the World's Best Food Markets."

hanukkah reuben kit—A twist on their popular Corned Beef Reuben Kit with even more delicious nosh for the holidays. This celebration in a box includes artisan Jewish Rye bread, Corned Beef, Emmentaler Swiss cheese, Zingerman's potato chips, Coleslaw, Brinery Sauerkraut, Russian dressing, garlicky pickles, a couple of dreidels, a box of chocolate gelt, and fresh-baked apricot rugelach.

merry mint chocolate cake—Ship a freshly baked chocolate cake filled with rich chocolate mint buttercream, iced with vanilla buttercream, cloaked in crushed brownie pieces, and topped with a fondant candy cane. Made with ingredients you'd find in a baker's pantry, this is the next best thing to being there to bake them a cake yourself.

holiday cheese course—*Better Homes and Gardens* praised Zingerman's for offering "One of the most comprehensive mail-order selections of cheeses in the country." This cheese party in a box serves 12 for appetizers or after dinner—or maybe a bit of both. It includes Spanish Manchego, L'Amuse Aged Gouda, and Bayley Hazen Blue cheeses, plus house-made Spiced Pecans and artisan Sourdough Bread.

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Zingerman's Food Tours managing partner and master tour leader, Kristie Brablec, guides culinary adventurers to the sources of extraordinary food and unforgettable experiences across Basque Country, Italy, Korea, and beyond.

Give yourself something sweet to look forward to and start planning your 2026 trip today. Perhaps you'd love to meet a hazelnut farmer in Italy or take a culinary cycling tour of Copenhagen with a local chef? Whatever adventure you have a hankering for, Zingerman's Food Tours has you covered—from cozy hotel stays and mouthwatering meals to hands-on cooking and tasting experiences.

To browse all the adventure possibilities or book your spots, visit zingermansfoodtours.com.

attention food lovers!

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If you're looking for some long reads, check out our blog at **zingermanscommunity.com**

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Marketplace Changes

by Dave Algase

Slows Bar BQ Comes to A2

The Detroit staple succeeds Blue Tractor.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The opening of Slows Bar BQ marks a return to Arbor for co-owners and brothers Terry (left) and Brian Perrone: the two are U-M grads.

"It's been a pretty open secret that we wanted to be here," says Terry Perrone of **Slows Bar BQ,** a Detroit destination for two decades. For years they've catered local events, hosted food truck tailgates, and served lunch weekly at University and Mott Children's hospitals. Now they have a permanent presence in downtown Ann Arbor.

It's a return three decades in the making for Terry and his brother Brian. The Detroit natives each graduated from U-M and pursued careers stemming more from their part-time student jobs than their undergraduate studies.

Terry, now fifty-four, studied English literature but eschewed grad school when Tower Records offered to send him to Argentina, followed by stints in Boston and Dallas as a retail executive. Brian, two years younger, majored in psychology while working at Touchdown Cafe (now Blue Leprechaun), Maude's (on the S. Fourth Ave. site of Ruth's Chris Steak House), and Blimpy Burger.

"When I finally started culinary school, it was like the lights were going on: This is it! This is where I should be," says Brian.

A few years later, slinging burritos from a pop-up at the Lager House in Corktown, he met the janitor, former model Phil Cooley, who'd just bought a cheap storefront a bit farther out on Michigan Ave., diagonal to Michigan Central Station.

They renovated the space, reclaiming old joists as design elements because they couldn't afford new lumber. In 2005 they opened Slows Bar BQ, named for the characteristic "slow and low" cooking method, Brian explains.

At the time, "Corktown was really left behind," he recalls. "There wasn't a lot going on there. The [Tiger] stadium was closed and was never going to reopen. The train station was totally falling apart." Four months later, Detroit hosted Super Bowl XL, and the Tigers made the World Series in 2006 for the first time in twenty-two years.

"You had this massive influx of press from around the world looking for where to eat in Detroit," Terry says. "And who's the shiny new toy?" Major media mentions have buoyed the business ever since, including a September 2025 visit from *The Tonight Show*'s Jimmy Fallon.

But hype alone doesn't sustain success. For that, the brothers credit the cuisine's accessibility and their consistent execution of it. Terry came on board early on to lend management expertise. They added a carryout and catering operation in Midtown in 2010 and a Grand Rapids outpost, which closed in 2023 after nine years. By then, the brothers, along with catering director Josh Keillor, became the sole owners, looking for new growth opportunities.

They committed to a new location in Berkley, near where their late father taught at the Royal Oak high school they attended, and it's on the verge of launching as well.

But their interest in Ann Arbor remained. Jackson Dearborn Partners kept an eye out for possible sites, and their dream came to fruition at a place already set up with barbecue smokers: Mission Restaurant Group's Blue Tractor. Jackson Dearborn and Mission's Jon Carlson are partners in Slows' Ann Arbor operation, which includes the basement Mash bar and music venue.

They've kept Dave Horchem as the general manager for the three-room, 280-seat combined site, and he expects the staffing to reach eighty. "Catering, private events, dine-in, third-party delivery, Mash—there's just lots of moving pieces," he says.

Brian clearly brings a chef's sensibility to the menu, taking inspiration from various regional styles in creating tastes uniquely his own. Their best-selling sandwich is The Reason ($15) because "it's the reason we opened the restaurant, really the reason we do barbecue," he says. It's smoked pork butt, pulled and bathed in a sweeter version of a North Carolina sauce, with coleslaw and dill pickles. For most offerings, diners choose among the six sauces at the table.

Mac and cheese is the most popular of their eight side dishes, but Brian is proud to have recently brought back potato salad after a long hiatus. The prep work had gotten too onerous as the business grew, so he switched from Idahos to unpeeled red-skinned potatoes, cut thicker, keeping the other components the same.

"We want something on the menu to be affordable for everybody," says Terry. "We're not fine dining, but we certainly want to be a place where you can do a meeting, you can do a first date, a rehearsal dinner, you name it."

Slows Bar BQ, 207 E. Washington. (734) 545–1699. Sun.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. slowsbarbq.com

Two Vietnamese Spots on E. Liberty

Sonca Luu's new café takes cryptocurrency.

Twelve years ago, Vietnam native Sonca Luu was a single mother with only $18,000 on hand when she navigated the paperwork for an SBA-backed loan to start BeeQ Salon & Spa on W. Stadium.

She now owns three Ann Arbor beauty-related establishments, two restaurants, and a café. The latest additions are **Saigon Social House** and **Block & Brew Cafe,** formerly operating as Taste Kitchen and Red Lotus in the Michigan Theater building (Marketplace Changes, August).

"So right now, my time is kind of tight, but I'm happy what I'm doing," she says as she whips up a salted cream iced Vietnamese coffee and cheerily extols the merits of cryptocurrency, which Block & Brew accepts as a payment alternative.

Her brother in Vietnam persuaded her to buy into Bitcoin about a decade ago. Not understanding much about the bankless currency stored on a decentralized digital ledger, or blockchain, she invested just $3,500. When its value swelled to $12,000, she sold it to help grow her salon business.

If she'd held on, she says, "right now I'd have $3 million. I didn't, but I learned."

Luu wants the café to serve as a locus for the crypto-curious, with meet-ups and seminars for prospective and active inves-

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Marketplace Changes

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Sonca Luu wants Block & Brew Cafe to serve as a meeting place for the crypto-curious—it even accepts cryptocurrency as payment. Luu also owns Saigon Social House, located next door in the Michigan Theater building.

tors. Block & Brew still accepts dollars, but she believes taking payment in the more stable digital currencies—Bitcoin, Ethereum, Solana—sends a signal about their legitimacy and inevitable mainstream adoption. (Detroit recently began accepting Bitcoin for city tax and fee payments.) Customers can scan the store's QR code to make a transfer to its digital wallet.

"I want people [to] know it's of value. It's not just fake money or a scam," she says.

She says she was sad to learn that chef Danny Van's backer had pulled out, taking his liquor license with him and jeopardizing Van's fine dining restaurant, Taste Kitchen, and its adjacent vegetarian offshoot, Red Lotus.

Though she had recently purchased South University stalwart Kang's Korean Restaurant from a relocating friend, she mustered the wherewithal to take over Van's establishments as well.

Finding the E. Liberty neighborhood trending more student than townie, she and Van decided to rebrand as more affordable concepts, pursue a new liquor license, and focus on cuisine from Vietnam, Van's birthplace as well. He says he'll eventually move to Hawaii, but he's staying on for a few years as a consultant, helping develop and adjust the Saigon Social House menu to find its sweet spot in the market. Luu is an eager taste tester and has been offering ideas on presentation.

Small plates options include several banh mi sandwiches, while signature dishes from $17 to $27 range from bouillabaisse to laksa noodles to three varieties of phở, the hearty rice noodle soup that Luu says she could eat several times a day.

"That's the main thing in Vietnam. Every family eats that," she says. "When we're sick, we want it. When we're hungry, we want it. Weather hot, we still eat it. Weather cold, we still eat it all the time."

On the Block & Brew side, Luu sources her coffee from her brother's Vietnam-based company, Nguyen Chat Coffee, and hopes to spearhead the brand's distribution in the U.S. She generalizes Vietnamese coffee as bolder than most, with a blend more robusta than arabica, sustaining a variety of sweet flavors.

They also offer a broad range of teas, matcha drinks, and house-made yogurt—a particularly smooth version made with condensed milk, enjoyed plain or with fruit.

Saigon Social House, 521 E. Liberty. (734) 369–4241. Wed., Thurs., & Sun. 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Closed Mon. & Tues. saigona2.com

Block & Brew Cafe, 529 E. Liberty. (734) 746–4403. Tues.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Fri.–Sun. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Closed Mon. blockandbrewcafe.com

Briefly Noted

"There's a lot of really great staples on Packard in Ann Arbor," Hailey Polidori Caragay says. "I'm excited to be a part of that."

She and her husband, Bryan Caragay, both twenty-nine, have bootstrapped **Hazel Coffee Co** from a pandemic-era espresso machine into a full-fledged coffee shop fronting the new Packard Row Apartments building.

"It was a bit more of a stretch than some other places that we looked at, but we felt really passionately about the area," she says. "A lot of our local favorites are right around here," including Fraser's Pub a block north and York Food and Drink across the street. The couple, who've been together since high school in the Plymouth/Canton area, bought a house near Buhr Park in 2022. "We knew we'd be basically serving our neighbors," Hailey says.

They both studied entrepreneurship at Central Michigan, along with psychology in her case and computer science in his. Work took them to Austin, Texas, where, as Hailey puts it, they "really loved the coffee scene."

When the pandemic struck, she found that some apartment communities there were sitting on funds allocated for events, so she tapped into that by pitching the concept of bringing coffee to tenants' doors.

"Everything we've done has been self-funded," she explains. "We believe in growing slowly. So we went from the machine to a cart to a truck"—a converted 1950s Red Dale camper.

They'd always envisioned moving back to Michigan, and their choice came down to Grand Rapids or Ann Arbor as they sought "the cool energy, the kind of community that we had in Austin," says Bryan. He works remotely as a software engineer for Toast, a provider of point-of-sale systems for restaurants.

Their coffee catering gigs led to referrals to Google and Detroit Tigers events, to name a few. Named for Hailey's mom's favorite coffee flavor, hazelnut, Hazel Coffee Co has close to 16,000 followers on Instagram and TikTok, where they've documented their journey to opening the shop.

"I am super passionate about social media," Bryan says. "We try to be transparent and share everything we possibly can. And it's a cool way to connect with people."

With a $150,000 budget and ample support from landlord Jackson Dearborn Partners, they designed a space combining their respective tastes. As Hailey describes, "Bryan's very minimal, clean, fine lines, and I'm way more eclectic, vintage, knick-knacks. So we both balanced each other out and tried to make this space something that had a little bit of a Southern feel, but was also comfortable and approachable."

For their espressos, drips, cold brews, and such, they're featuring local roasters including Ann Arbor's Dozer Coffee and Ferndale-based Dessert Oasis. Matcha and chai lattes are popular choices as well. Bittersweet Bakehouse in Westland is among the rotating suppliers of sweet and savory snacks. They're also planning to offer Iggy's Eggies breakfast burritos.

"We're specialty in the sense that everything we make has a lot of thought and care put into it," Bryan says. "But we're not specialty in the sense we'll turn you away if you want something that isn't necessarily, like, just coffee."

Hazel Coffee Co, 2111 Packard, ste. 130. (734) 492–3570. Daily 7 a.m.–5 p.m. hazelcoffee.co

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Tim Hortons is back at Abraham Ajrouch's property at the corner of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. and W. Eisenhower that also hosts a Shell gas station, Chillbox convenience and liquor store, and a Taystee's Burgers outlet.

Ajrouch originally opened a franchise of the Canadian coffee and restaurant behemoth in 2012, when he revamped what he termed Ann Arbor Gateway to add retail space and a drive-thru. It closed five years ago during the pandemic.

He says he's glad for Tim Hortons' return and especially glad to not be running it himself. The new franchisee is New Haven, Michigan–based Bazco Oil Company, which operates the gas station and its Chillbox-branded stores.

Ali Fadel manages the entire plaza except for the separately owned Taystee's. He says seventeen employees were added to staff Tim Hortons. It's now openly accessible from the convenience store, a redesign made possible when alcohol sales were shifted into the Liquor Loft space in 2023.

Tim Hortons, with more than 6,000 locations worldwide, is named for the hockey Hall of Famer who founded it in 1964 as a donut shop in Hamilton, Ontario. (He was still an NHL player in 1974, when he died at age forty-four in a single-car, alcohol-related crash.) The apostrophe in the company name was later dropped to avoid running afoul of French language requirements in Québec.

Tim Hortons, 2679 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (734) 332–0906. Daily 6 a.m.–8 p.m. locations.timhortons.com/en/mi/ann-arbor/2679-ann-arbor-saline-rd

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Native clothing and gift store **NTVES** and its adjacent **INTY.M Gallery** (Marketplace Changes, June) got bumped from Briarwood Mall in September, but the Muenala family says they'll be back in time for holiday shopping.

Ecuador-born founder and artist Inty Muenala tells the Observer that the native goods store will reopen in late November next to Victoria's Secret along the mall's main corridor. The art gallery is moving into an even larger storefront, the former Forever 21 space next to JCPenney.

"We're looking for positive things" to stem from the transition, he says. The extra room will accommodate more exhibitors, and they're hoping to host weekend art events. They're open to fielding inquiries from local artists interested in showing their work and selling on consignment.

His son Dary manages operations for the business, which is also adding stores this year in Nashville and in Toledo's Franklin Park Mall.

Foot Locker will be tripling its square footage by moving from its longtime spot near Macy's into NTVES's former location in the Von Maur wing. A January opening is planned.

The footwear and athletic apparel chain was acquired this year by Dick's Sporting Goods, which is expected to open a new store next September as part of the mixed-use redevelopment transforming the mall's east side, formerly anchored by Sears.

NTVES and INTY.M Gallery, Briarwood Mall. (248) 342–4571. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. ntves.com

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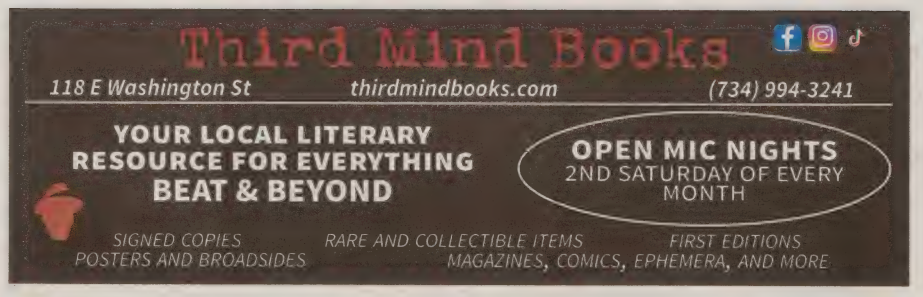
Observant Marketplace Changes readers have surely detected the recent emergence of a few local trends: Yemeni coffeehouses, chicken chains, and mushroom shops.

Mush Love, which opened in October, is the fifth business we've noted this year offering dried mushrooms and various preparations for use cases ranging from psychedelic exploration to alternatives to Big Pharma. They're also available from delivery services and at other stores that have added such product lines since the



Marketplace Changes

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city essentially decriminalized entheogenic plants and fungi in 2020.

According to its press packet, Mush Love chose Ann Arbor "because the city embodies creativity, openness, progressive culture, and curiosity—the exact qualities that define modern mushroom wellness."

Their wording is carefully chosen: products are "always presented with clear information and ethical guidance. Mush Love does not make medical claims and does not position mushrooms as a replacement for professional healthcare."

Given that psilocybin prohibition is still on the state and federal books, that care extends to privacy protection. Mush Love declined interview requests, identifying as a mission-driven collective that "prefers to remain a unified voice rather than putting attention on individual owners or founders."

Mush Love, 2007 S. State. (734) 215–7450. Mon.–Thurs. noon–8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. mushlovemi.com

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Bori Korean Kitchen & Bar General Manager Chyna Blu says the reimagined second-floor space above Jolly Pumpkin provides a "very casual, laid-back atmosphere, but the food that you get feels like it's fine dining."

It's a partnership between Mission Restaurant Group and the family of Korean-born chef James Park of Ann Arbor. Blu, who manages both Bori and Jolly Pumpkin, says Park dreamed of featuring his traditional cuisine in his adopted hometown, and Mission's Jon Carlson "was someone to help make that dream come true."

The full-service menu is highlighted by *dakgangjeong* (crispy glazed chicken), *japchae* (glass noodles with marinated steak and vegetables), *dolsot* (stone pot) bibimbap, and Korean-styled sushi rolls, sandwiches, and pizza.

"My favorite thing about the menu is I feel like everything comes with a vegetable. Sometimes that's hard to find when you're going out to eat," Blu notes. "Things that I would maybe be intimidated by or I've never tried before in life, if you're willing to experiment and open up your horizons, it's mind-blowing."

The restaurant's name refers to barley, but it's another grain—rice—that's intrinsic to such featured drinks as soju and *makgeolli*.

The fifteen-table dining room has been brightened with natural wood and modern lighting since its time as part of the Jolly Pumpkin brewpub, while the seasonal upper-level deck will be shared by both establishments, Blu says.

For $40 per hour, small groups can reserve the new soundproof karaoke room, or *noraebang*, "a really cool space with lights and mirrors" that Blu says comfortably accommodates about eight.

Bori Korean Kitchen & Bar, 311 S. Main (second floor). (734) 590–7100. Mon.–Thurs. 4–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 4 p.m.–midnight; Sun. 4–9 p.m. borikoreankitchen.com

The first tangible sign of the major Arbor South redevelopment is apparent with the recent closure of the Shell gas station at S. State and E. Eisenhower. Its neighboring business, the Mediterranean takeout joint **Shawarma Shop,** has been invited into a bigger space nearby, the lobby of the 777 Building.

Owner Bilal Choukeir says he's signed a ten-year deal with Oxford Companies to move into the ten-story office building. Oxford, headquartered there, is instrumental in the planned transformation of the surrounding area into a mixed-use community corridor of about a thousand multifamily housing units, along with commercial space and a hotel at the corner.

Choukeir took over Shawarma Shop shortly after it opened in 2021, surviving the pandemic's business and staffing challenges with hands-on help from family. The lunch rush has been crucial, and online reviews of their Lebanese street food are strong. With more space, seating, and the prospect of new residents nearby, he's adding a bakery and expanding the menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Curbside pickup will be available from the 777 Building location, which is expected to open in early December, he says.

Margaret Wyzlic, Oxford's director of marketing and business development, emails that Shawarma Shop is a "beloved Ann Arbor institution" that is now "positioned as a key piece of our vision for a walkable, vibrant Southside."

Shawarma Shop, 777 E. Eisenhower. (734) 369–6552. New hours to be announced. shawarmashopmi.com

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Featuring candy, chips, cookies, drinks, and frozen treats from forty different countries, **Exotic Snack Guys** "became famous from TikTok," according to Felisha Madison, manager of their Briarwood Mall outpost.

Founded in the Chicago area in 2023, the company has grown to about fifty locations, according to its website, by "[s]couring international marketplaces for unique and limited items."

A perusal of the shelves revealed many unfamiliar varieties of some otherwise household names—strawberry Snickers bars, roasted seaweed–flavored Lays Stax.

"We get a lot of that 'Oh my God! You can only find this in Canada, and you guys have it here!'" Madison reports. Tiger kebab chips from Egypt are strong sellers. Freezer case offerings include Dubai chocolate bars and Japanese mochi ice cream in grape, mango, and mandarin.

For the truly adventurous, says Madison, $25 or $50 mystery boxes are packed with assortments from throughout the shop—"all but the ice cream!"

Exotic Snack Guys, Briarwood Mall (JCPenney wing). (414) 852–9016. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. exoticsnackguys.com

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email marketplace@aaobserver.com.

2025

Holiday Guide

Wishing you a joyful holiday season! Experience all Ann Arbor has to offer throughout the month of December—from local performances to holiday concerts, dining, religious services, and of course, shopping. It's the perfect time of year to support the unique local businesses in town that make our community so exceptional!

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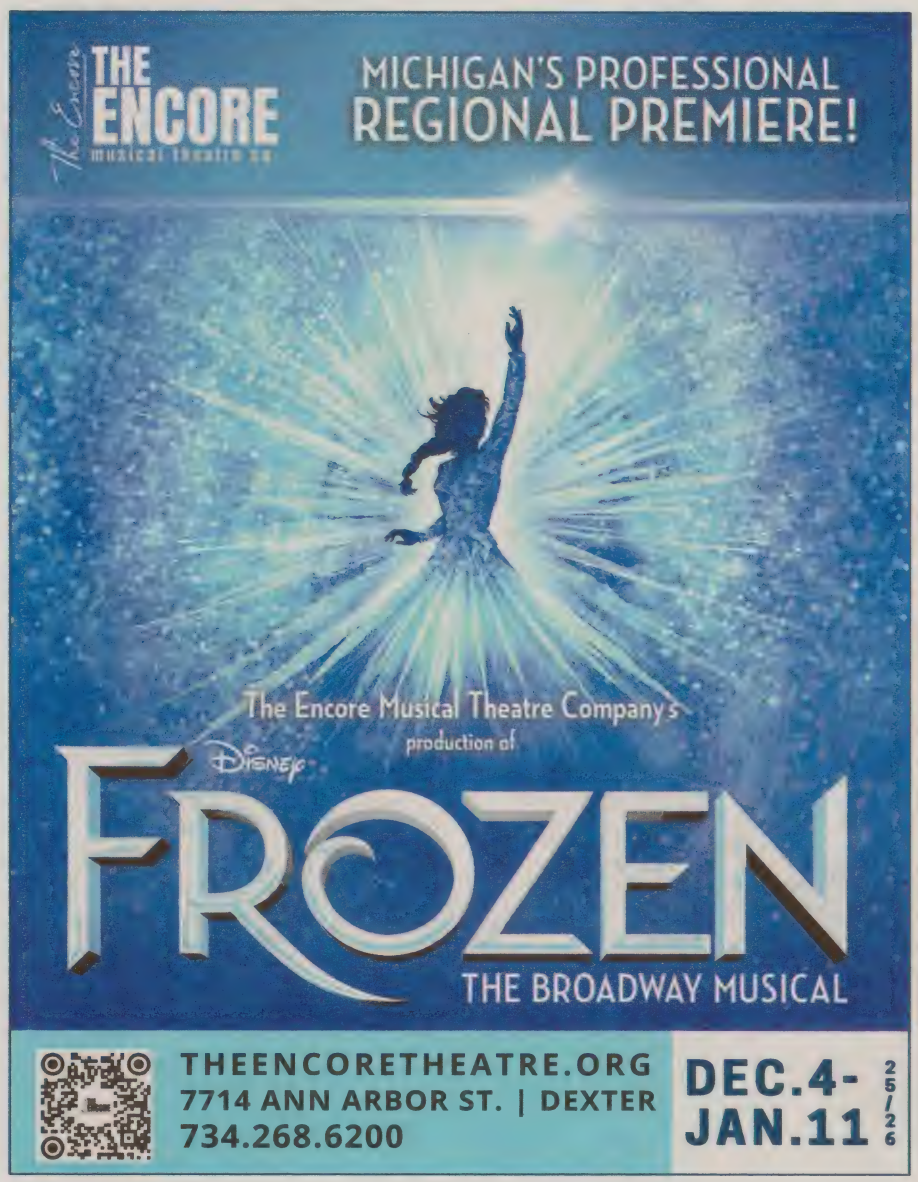

2025

Holiday Guide

313 Presents

Cirque Dreams Holidaze dazzles with a breathtaking holiday spectacular for the entire family. As the original Cirque Holiday theatrical event, this annual tradition wraps a Broadway-style production around awe-inspiring contemporary circus arts. Guests of all ages will be on the edges of their seats as a cast of holiday characters come to life, captivating audiences while defying gravity. Reimagined for 2025, Cirque Dreams Holidaze features original music, fresh twists on beloved holiday favorites sung live, new sets, dazzling scenery, and stunning costumes—making it the ultimate holiday gift! Coming to the Fox Theatre December 9–14!

Tickets on sale at: 313presents.com

313 Presents

Your favorite Christmas story comes to you LIVE onstage in the spectacular Broadway musical Meredith Willson's ***Miracle on 34th Street The Musical*** at the Fox Theatre December 16–18. Delight in this heartwarming holiday classic that the whole family will love. Don't miss your chance to make this holiday unforgettable.

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Since 1974, family-owned **Abracadabra Jewelry and Gem Gallery** has used ethically sourced gemstones and recycled metals to provide the people of Ann Arbor with beautiful and unique jewelry. Explore the curated collections from local artists and national designers, plus fair trade jewelry from around the world, and to find a piece that speaks to you or your loved ones this holiday. Abracadabra also offers on-site jewelry repair, custom design, vintage restoration, and certified appraisals.

205 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
(734) 994–4848 • abragem.com

Ann Arbor Baptist Church

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Event dates: Dec 11–14: 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
2150 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor
(734) 995–5144 • aabaptist.church

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

Create moments of discovery that inspire curiosity and exploration at the **Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum!** Located in downtown Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum features over 250 different and exciting exhibits for enjoyment. Get hands-on this holiday season with daily musical performances and activities. Consider giving the gift of experience with a yearlong membership, which includes free every day admission to the museum.

220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor
(734) 995–5439 • discoverscienceandnature.org

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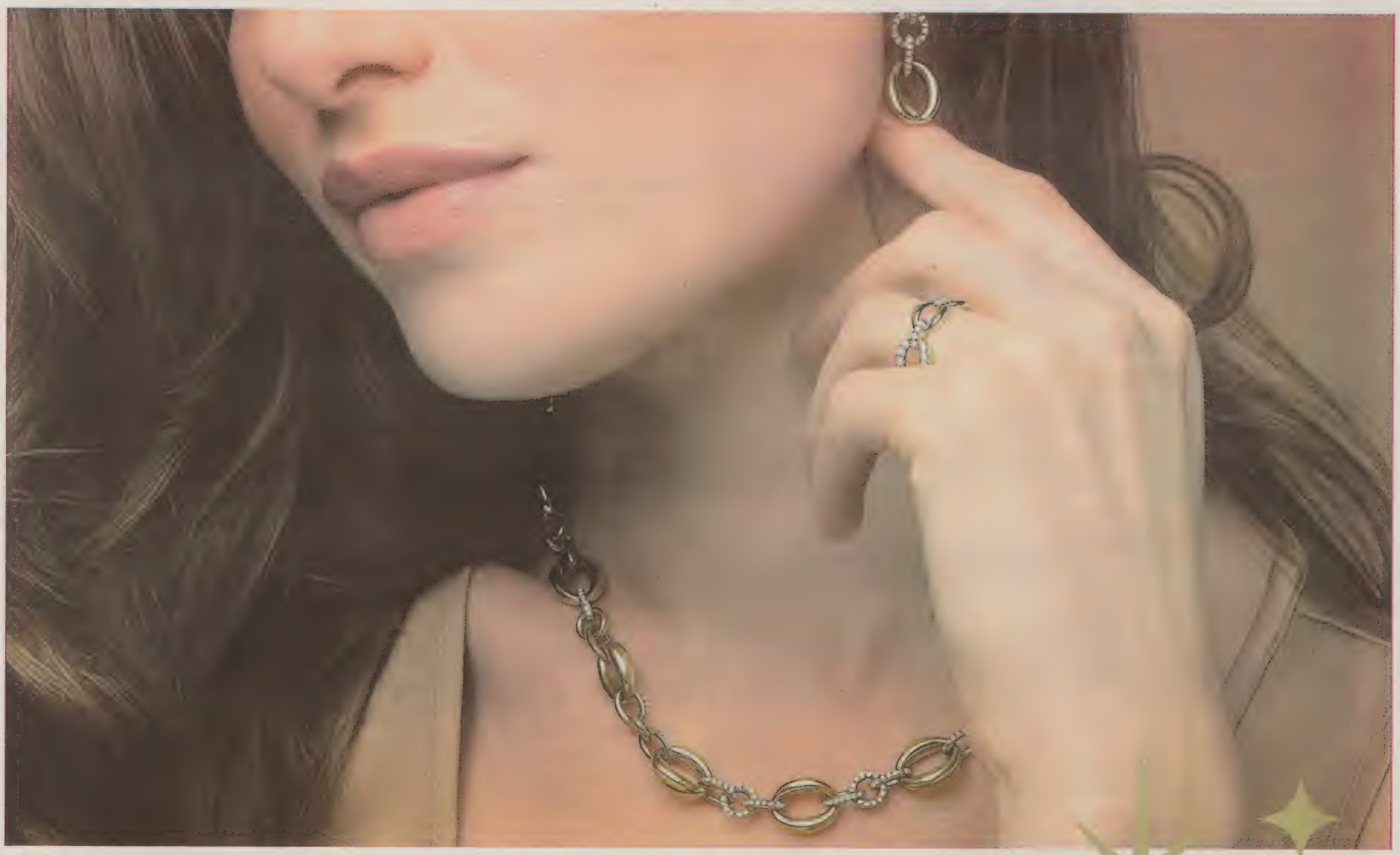

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Arbor Teas

Arbor Teas is a family-owned organic tea company based in Ann Arbor, Michigan since 2004. Their daily mission is to find the world's most fantastic organic teas and herbs and deliver them to their customers as sustainably as possible. In addition to a carefully curated catalog of over 100 organic teas, they offer teapots, infusers, Michigan-made matcha bowls and mugs (Swallowtail Pottery and Grayling Ceramics), as well as gift sets. Arbor Teas offers free delivery in the city of Ann Arbor every Friday, and free pickup at their warehouse on North Main St.! They also ship throughout the U.S.

1342 N. Main St., Ann Arbor
(734) 994–7698 • arborteas.com

Ayse's Café

Ayse's Café is an authentic Turkish restaurant, proudly serving the Ann Arbor community for over thirty-two years. Their mission is to provide high-quality, flavorful food, and welcome all to explore Turkish home cooking. The daily menu provides a range of dishes, always including gluten-free and vegan options. Ayse's Café is now taking reservations for their annual holiday dinner on Saturday, December 13 at 6 p.m. Ayse's happily hosts private events and caters, and they host monthly special dinners with live music. Old friends or new, they look forward to seeing you soon!

1703 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor
(734) 662–1711 • aysesturkishcafeannarbor.com

The Big House: Fielding H. Yost and the Building of Michigan Stadium, by Robert M. Soderstrom

Experience the amazing story of how the greatest stadium in America came to be! ***The Big House: Fielding H. Yost and the Building of Michigan Stadium* by Robert M. Soderstrom** explores Yost winning four Big Ten titles in five years, and Michigan beating Ohio State a record six years in a row. Also included, the best team Yost said he ever had, and the history of Michigan's only two-time All-American quarterback, Benny Friedman. All this, plus the in-depth story of Yost building the greatest stadium in America. A perfect gift for Michigan fans and history buffs alike!

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2025

Holiday Guide

Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor

Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor is uplifting those impacted by cancer. The Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor (CSC) is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping people facing cancer find hope, connection, and strength. Since 2007, CSC has provided free emotional support, education, and wellness programs for patients, survivors, caregivers, and families. Through support groups, yoga and nutrition classes, children's programs, and financial assistance, CSC creates a compassionate space where no one faces cancer alone. With both in-person and virtual offerings, CSC continues to break down barriers to care and build a stronger, more caring community. Learn more at cancersupportannarbor.org

2010 Hogback Rd., ste. 3, Ann Arbor
(734) 975–2500 • cancersupportannarbor.org

Chelsea Party Loft

Create your own party magic this holiday season! **Chelsea Party Loft** is a stylish new event space for kids and adult birthdays, baby showers, graduation parties, holiday parties, and more! This flexible, modern venue seats up to forty, and allows outside food and catering for a unique, customizable experience. Included with every booking are tables, chairs, linens, a sound system, DJ party lights, and a 360-degree video booth. Chelsea Party Loft provides an upscale feel without the sky-high price tag. Affordable hourly rates start at $99/hour (Mon.–Thurs.) and $149/hour (Fri.–Sun.).

1115 S. Main St., Chelsea
(734) 562–2022 • chelseapartyloft.com

The Croswell Opera House

The Croswell Opera House has two great shows for the holidays! *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* is a contemporary take on the classic tale featuring new characters, a hilarious script, and an unforgettable score. It's a magical start to the holiday season! Also in December—*Broadway Holidays* will become one of your most loved traditions! Join some of your favorite stars from recent Croswell shows for this fun-filled, family-friendly musical extravaganza, featuring a mix of Christmastime classics and Broadway hits that will leave you with a song in your heart.

129 E. Maumee St., Adrian
(517) 264–7469 • croswell.org

Ayse's CAFÉ™
Turkish Dine-In / Take-Out / Catering

32th Annual Holiday Dinner
Sat., Dec. 13, 2025, 6 pm
Reservations: Ayse at 734-662-1711 or ayse@aysescafe.com

Live music
1703 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Mon - Sat 12 -8:00 pm
www.aysescafe.com • Facebook • Instagram

Destination Ann Arbor

Explore and experience all that the Ann Arbor area has to offer with **Destination Ann Arbor**, your local resource for festive fun and holiday events! Whether you're new to town or rediscovering familiar favorites, Destination Ann Arbor provides a comprehensive list of places to stay, where to eat, and things to do. This holiday, make spirits bright with local holiday performances, artisan markets, and shopping at independent bookstores and unique boutiques. Destination Ann Arbor helps visitors and residents alike experience an unforgettable destination that celebrates curiosity and inspires discovery.

315 W. Huron St., ste. 340, Ann Arbor
(734) 995–7281 • annarbor.org

Disability Network and Dementia-Friendly Services Saline Holiday Art Market!

Support local artists and find truly unique holiday gifts at the **Disability Network and Dementia-Friendly Services Saline Holiday Art Market!** Free refreshments, live music, and gift wrapping for your purchases. $5 suggested donation. Browse an incredible array of handcrafted jewelry, pottery, paintings, wearables, cards, and more—perfect for gifts or personal keepsakes. Get a head start on your holiday shopping while supporting a community of artists and makers whose creativity makes the season brighter.

December 6, 1–4 p.m.
3941 Research Park Dr., Ann Arbor
(734) 971–0277 • claire@dnwml.org

The Encore Theatre

The Encore Theatre Company, Southeast Michigan's premier professional musical theater, invites audiences to step into the kingdom of Arendelle with its upcoming production of Disney's *Frozen*, running December 4–January 11. The highly anticipated musical marks the first professional regional production of *Frozen* in Michigan, and early ticket sales are already breaking records. With extra matinees added throughout the limited six-week run, the show promises to be a centerpiece of the holiday season—and an unforgettable family outing. For a thoughtful gift, pick up Encore gift certificates and give the gift of theatre to someone special. Tickets range from $30 for youth 17 and under, up to $61 for premium adult seats. Full season details and tickets at theencoretheatre.org.

7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter
(734) 268–6200 • theencoretheatre.org

The First Dollar

The First Dollar is a coin & bullion dealership operating out of the Domino's Farms complex in north Ann Arbor. In business since 2020, they buy and sell scrap gold, gold and silver bullion coins and bars, and numismatic coins. First Dollar offers value opinions and appraisals. They're happy to do large and small deals, and ship nationwide as well. Call to make an appointment today!

24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr., Lobby L, Ann Arbor
(734) 864–6920 • thefirstdollar.net• ackolbert@aol.com

2025 WSG Holiday Show
November 26 - December 27

Holiday Hours:
Wednesday 10am-6pm
Thursday 12pm-6pm
Friday 12pm-7pm
Saturday 10am.-5pm
Sunday 12pm-5pm
Special hours: Friday Dec 5, 12-9pm
Closed Mondays, and Tuesdays and Thursday Nov 27, Dec 25, Jan 1

WSG GALLERY
111 East Ann Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 929-2621 www.wsgart.com

Invited Artists' Opening Reception
Sunday, November 30, 2-5pm

Reception during Kindlefest/Midnight Madness
includes 10% off
Friday, December 5, 5-9pm

Gallery Artists & thirteen invited Artists
Lisa Newman
Jenny Salinas
Marie Krull
Rebecca Lambers
Elliott Kayser
Jenneva Kayser
Alvey Jones
Marcia Polenberg
Linda Nyrkkanen
Ekin Aytac & Josh David
Rick Goff
Aaron Liepman

The Sunday Artisan Market
founded in 1991

HANDMADE ARTS & CRAFTS
BY LOCAL ARTISANS (JURIED MARKET)

Sundays, 11-4
April-Dec.

Free Parking
No Admission Fee

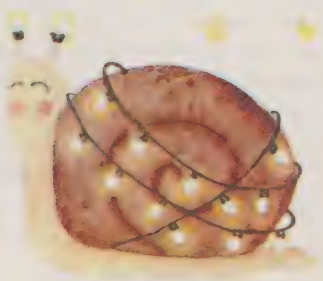
Ann Arbor Farmers Market
Pavilion, 315 Detroit St.

Shop Ann Arbor's weekly outdoor art market for one-of-a-kind gifts ... and meet the makers!

GAUCHE & INK PAINTING BY RICK GOFF

FB: Sunday Artisan Market • IG: TheSundayArtisanMarket • Web: SundayArtisanMarket.org

2025 Holiday Guide



First Presbyterian Church

All are welcome to celebrate Christmas at **First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor!** Join them every Sunday in December at 8 and 9:30 a.m. Holiday events and services are offered throughout the month of December, including the Nativity Service December 14 at 9:30 a.m., Christmas Concert December 14 at 4 p.m., Longest Night Service December 21 at 7 p.m., and Christmas Eve Services December 24 at 5, 7:30, and 11 p.m.

1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 662–4466 • firstpresbyterian.org

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

No matter where you are on your faith journey, **First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor** invites you to celebrate Christmas with them! First United Methodist is a progressive, Christ-centered church focused on loving boldly and building hope through worship, education, service, and social justice. Come join for carols, candlelight, and community! Worship with them on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 10 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. service will be livestreamed on YouTube.

120 S. State St., Ann Arbor
(734) 662–4536 • fumc-a2.org

FOUND

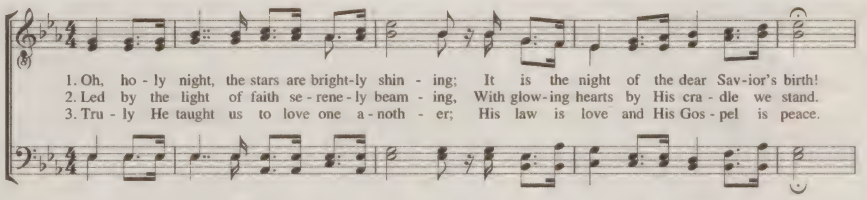
Looking for a festive holiday shopping destination? Check out **FOUND** in Kerrytown! For twenty years, they've added holiday delight to the seven weeks leading up to Christmas. This year's collection includes a handcrafted Father Christmas, wonky trees with woodland critters, polar bears, and Hoptimist snowmen. Find a creative selection of home and holiday décor, work by local makers, candles, cards, art supplies, stationery, and fun surprises for everyone on your list.

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops: 415 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 302–3060 • foundgallery.com

Fran Coy's Salon and Spa

Family owned and operated since 1977, **Fran Coy's Salon and Spa** is more than just hair. Treat yourself or a loved one this holiday with a therapeutic massage, hot stone therapy, vitamin therapy facial, or a variety of rejuvenating skin care treatments. Spa packages make the perfect gift that they won't return. Add lash extensions, brow microblading, and nail services to complete your look. Visit them for gift bags to go with your gift card. Online gift certificates are available!

418 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor
(734) 665-7207 • francoysalon.com



St. Clare's Episcopal Church

Worship with Joy, Grow in Faith, Act for Justice

Quiet Christmas • December 15, 7pm
Space for silence and grief in a reflective service of music and candlelight

Christmas Eve, 4 pm • Drop-in Christmas pageant for all ages

Christmas Eve, 8 pm • Festive Communion service with carols

2309 Packard St. • SaintClaresChurch.org

Green Things Farm Collective

Green Things Farm Collective has over forty years of diverse farming experience made possible by the innovation and inspired vision of passionate local farmers. With the belief that the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts, Green Things Farm Collective practices small-scale regenerative farming to grow great food for the community. Their organic vegetables and flowers can be found seasonally at various local outlets such as Kerrytown Market & Shops, Argus Farm Stop, and the Green Things Farm Stand. Visit greenthingsfarm.com for more information.

3825 Nixon Rd., Ann Arbor
(734) 772–1418 • greenthingsfarm.com

The Guild of Artists & Artisans x Gutman Gallery

The Guild of Artists & Artisans presents the fifth annual Holiday Artist Market in the Gutman Gallery. The market runs November 14–December 20 and highlights a wide variety of artist-made giftable works from 100+ artists. The gallery offers various handmade giftable works of art including wearables (scarves, gloves, jewelry), functional items (mugs, dishes, baskets), holiday cards, and more! In addition, the gallery will welcome in artists for artist pop-ups selling a wider selection of their works and festive events throughout the holiday season! Shop in-store Tuesday–Saturday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m., or online 24/7 at shopgutmangallery.com. Follow along on IG and FB @GutmanGallery for Holiday Artist Market updates and information!

Gutman Gallery: 118 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 662–3382 • shopgutmangallery.com

Happy House

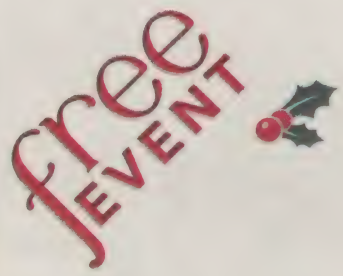
Happy House in Replace: Ann Arbor's Westgate Shopping Center offers boutique finds, apparel, jewelry, Vera Bradley, Disney collectables, and children's puzzles and games. Stocking a vast inventory of unique gifts since 1975, Happy House has something for everyone on your list. Browse a variety of gifts for the holiday, including candles, kitchen accessories, keepsake ornaments, gift wrap and ribbon, gardening supplies, and upscale baby items.

Westgate Shopping Center: 2539 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 662–9635 • happyhousegifts.com

H.E.H. Human Electric Hybrids

Ride away with all your winter cycling needs at **H.E.H. Human Electric Hybrids!** The winter is the ideal time to plan for your spring ride, and browse hundreds of e-bikes ready to roll. Hundreds of e-bikes and cargo bikes in stock. Shop accessories and new gear for the cyclists in your life, as H.E.H. offers equipment for casual leisure riders, springtime cyclists, and die-hard commuters riding year round.

320 Miller Ave., Ann Arbor
(734) 800–6052 • human-electric-hybrids.com



DECEMBER 11th - 14th
6:00 - 8:00 PM

DRIVE-THROUGH
CHRISTMAS
EXPERIENCE

Light Display

Our massive light display features a lighted tunnel, 25-foot Christmas trees, and much more that can all be enjoyed from the warmth of your car.

Live Nativity

Experience the sights and sounds of the manger scene, with live animals and actors, that will draw you into the setting of Jesus' birth.

Free Café

Drive through the cafe for a free cookie and hot chocolate! Our refreshments will be served by friendly volunteers straight to your car window.

Mini Movie

Enjoy the five minute Christmas movie on a drive-in big screen.

Total Experience Time
20-30 minutes

ENTER SOUTHBOUND - TURN RIGHT ONLY

ANN ARBOR BAPTIST CHURCH

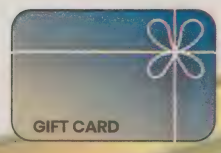
2150 South Wagner RD. AABAPTIST CHURCH

Scanthology

Serving Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan with trusted local care.

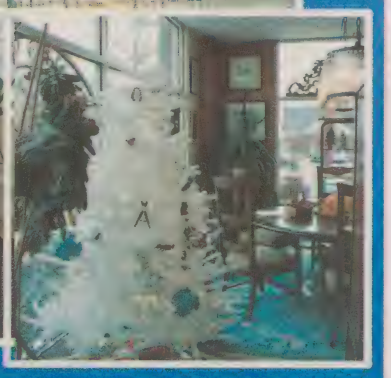
Scanthology provides a white-glove, in-home digitization service for families ready to preserve their legacy. We help you organize, scan, and beautifully archive generations of photos, films, and documents—so your stories live on, not in the basement.

Gift cards are now available—perfect for families, parents, or loved ones who have "too many boxes and not enough time."



LEARN MORE

scanthology.com (734) 926 - 0004 info@scanthology.com



HOLIDAY READY WITH FURNITURE, ARTWORK & HOME DECOR

Westside Furniture Consignment Emporium

Refresh your style sustainably! Consign with us!

www.WFCE.net

ANN ARBOR
283 S. Zeeb RD, STE C
734-929-4508

JACKSON
1511 W. Morrell ST
517-315-4094

2025 Holiday Guide

iBallet Studio

The Nutcracker presented by **iBallet** returns to the Power Center for Performing Arts in Ann Arbor with four performances this holiday season: Friday, December 19 at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 20 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday, December 21 at 2 p.m. Immerse yourself in Clara's magical world of toy soldiers, sleigh rides, and sugarplums in this timeless holiday classic for all ages featuring professional dancers from some of the world's top ballets. New this year, a live orchestra with over forty musicians from the University of Michigan will provide the soundtrack to this iconic holiday classic. Tickets are on sale now. Scan to purchase using the QR in the December ad, or at https://mutotix.umich.edu/overview/6016.

The Power Center for the Performing Arts
121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor

The Kitchen Loft

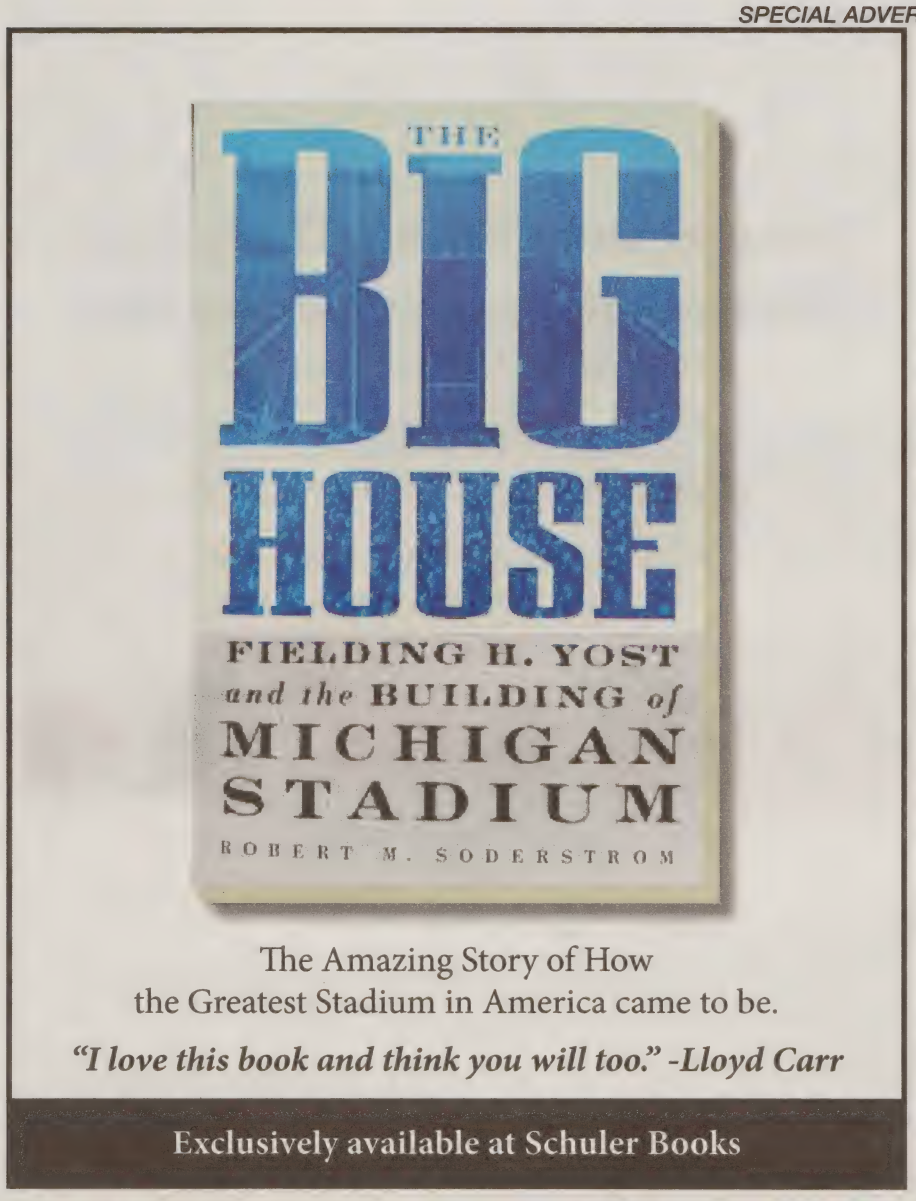
The Kitchen Loft has been proudly serving Ann Arbor for four years now in Kerrytown Market & Shops, and recently expanded to be able to better meet the culinary needs and adventures of our community! In October, The Kitchen Loft opened The Knife Stop, just down the hall on the second floor. In addition to all the great gadgets, textiles, and tools that you'll find in their kitchen boutique, you can now find ten+ lines of culinary knives at The Knife Stop, including Lamson and Steelport (USA), Opinel (France), Kikuichi, Miyabi, Kawashima, and Global (Japan), Messermeister, Zwilling (Germany), and Victorinox and Swiss Army (Switzerland). Sharpening services are offered as well! In-store demos as well as knife skills and demo-style cooking classes, will be offered in 2026 in the knife shop space. Their popular rewards program works in both shops, as do gift cards. Come on in, they'd love to meet you!

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops, second floor:
The Kitchen Loft: (734) 780–7087 • 407 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
The Knife Stop: (734) 780–7280 • 410 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor
aakitchenloft.com

Kiwanis Thrift Sale

Donate and shop this holiday season at the **Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Thrift Sale!** The annual Holiday Gifts and Decorations Sale takes place every Friday from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–3 p.m. from now–December 20. Browse bargains on holiday gifts, Christmas trees, seasonal decorations, household goods, and furniture. The Toy Sale is November 28–December 20, and proceeds go towards helping children in our community.

100 N. Staebler Rd., Ann Arbor
(734) 665–0450 • kiwanissale.com



The Amazing Story of How
the Greatest Stadium in America came to be.

"I love this book and think you will too." -Lloyd Carr

Exclusively available at Schuler Books

2025

Holiday Guide

Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor

Through the sponsorship of **Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor**, the Warm the Children program provides children with new warm clothing: coats, hats, boots, mittens, and other essentials at the start of Michigan's winter season. Each year, school counselors and social workers in Washtenaw County refer children in need of warm clothing to this program. Since its founding in 1995, the program has served thousands of local children, and your generous donation will keep the program running and provide a child with warm clothing. 100 percent of donations goes directly toward providing clothing. Donate online at a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren or by mail.

2723 S. State St., ste. 110, Ann Arbor (mail-in donations accepted at this location & Old National Bank)
a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren

Lewis Jewelers

Looking for the perfect ring, bracelet, or watch this holiday season? **Lewis Jewelers** is a family-owned, full-service jewelry store offering major brands, custom design, repairs, and engraving. Shop OMEGA, HEARTS ON FIRE, TACORI, and more fine brands. Not sure what jewelry to buy? A Lewis Jewelers gift card is something that fits perfectly every time! In-store shopping and curbside pickup available.

300 S. Maple Rd., Ann Arbor
(734) 994–5111 • lewisjewelers.com

Michigan Reclaimed Barns and Lumber

Michigan Reclaimed Barns and Lumber offers locally sourced, premium reclaimed barn wood salvaged from barns right here in Michigan, and surrounding states in the Midwest. The wood repurposed from these barn sites is nothing like you find in a hardware store. Exceptional quality hardwoods—chestnut, oak, pine, poplar, hemlock, walnut, fir, and beech. Live edge slabs, custom-designed and -made furniture, home installations, and custom milling are also available. Find the perfect gift for carpenters, woodworkers, contractors, artists, and the person ready to dive into their latest DIY project. Create or discover your own fine, handcrafted, one-of-a-kind piece this holiday season.

22 Metty Dr., Ann Arbor
(734) 223–0759 • michiganreclaimedbarns.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

No matter where you are on your faith journey, we invite you to celebrate Christmas with us! We are a progressive, Christ-centered church focused on loving boldly and building hope through worship, education, service and social justice. Come join us for carols, candlelight and community!

Worship With Us on Christmas Eve!
December 24 at 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Use QR code to livestream 7:30 p.m. service on YouTube.

FUMC-A2.ORG

120 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

MICHIGAN THEATER ANN ARBOR | STATE THEATRE ANN ARBOR | 603 E. Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI

HOLIDAYS AT THE THEATER

MEET SANTA BEFORE THE FILM!

DEC 7 | THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL

DEC 14 | HOME ALONE

SUNDAYS AT 1:30 PM

FREE

RESERVE YOUR TICKET

DEC 21 | THE POLAR EXPRESS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONOR

"JIFFY" *mix*

GIVE THE GIFT OF MOVIES ALL YEAR LONG

BECOME A MEMBER

- EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS AND PERKS
- CELEBRATE THE BEST OF FILM
- LIVE PERFORMANCES

We Make Parties Easy

Need a place to celebrate? Chelsea Party Loft is the ideal space for Birthdays, Baby Showers, Holiday Parties and more!

- Affordable hourly rates
- Seats up to 40 guests
- FREE 360° video booth
- Close to A2 with free parking

HOLIDAY SPECIAL
SAVE $50
on your next event!
(Book by 3/31/26. Show this ad.)

CHELSEA PARTY LOFT

ChelseaPartyLoft.com
1115 S. Main St. Chelsea (734) 562-2022

Christmas Season at **Westminster**

12/05, 6:30pm, Caroling and Cocoa
12/24, 7pm, Christmas Eve Worship
01/04, 11am, Choir Cantata

westpresa2.org
1500 Scio Church Rd, Ann Arbor

Happy House
Gift Shop
Ann Arbor
Battle Creek
Hallmark GOLD CROWN

Great Selection of Fashion and Giftware

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Westgate Shopping Center ▪ 2539 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor
Vera Bradley ▪ Baggallini ▪ Silver Forest ▪ Demdaco ▪ Nora Flemming ▪ Enesco

2025 Holiday Guide

Michigan Theater

Celebrate the season at the **Michigan Theater!** The holidays shine brighter at Ann Arbor's historic Michigan Theater. Enjoy free, classic holiday films on the big screen with the sound of the Barton organ and caroling filling the Grand Foyer. From timeless favorites to family traditions, every screening captures the magic of the season and the spirit of community. Make new memories, start a tradition, and feel the wonder of the season right here in downtown Ann Arbor. Find showtimes and details at marquee-arts.org.

603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
(734) 668–8397 • marquee-arts.org

MilkShake Factory

Locally owned and operated **MilkShake Factory** is known for its premium hand-spun shakes, created with its signature ice cream made in-house. Founded by a fourth-generation chocolatier, this dessert destination also crafts handmade chocolates that are perfect for gifting, including seasonal items such as peppermint bark and chocolate snowmen. And their chocolate Chocuterie boards make the perfect dessert for your holiday party. Stop in for a treat and grab some gift cards; they make great stocking stuffers!

326 S. Maple Rd. (in Westgate Shopping Center), Ann Arbor
(734) 275–3883 • milkshakefactory.com

The Penny Seats Theatre Company

The Penny Seats Theatre Company proudly presents *The Thanksgiving Play*, by Larissa FastHorse, playing at Cahoots Event Center in downtown Ann Arbor, November 21–December 7. Good intentions collide with absurd assumptions in this wickedly funny satire, as a troupe of terminally "woke" teaching artists scrambles to create a pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage Month.

Performing at Cahoots: 206 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor
For tickets & info:
pennyseats.org • (734) 926–5346 • thepennyseats@gmail.com
Note: December 5 special performance at 10 p.m. as part of Midnight Madness in Ann Arbor.

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY GREATER ANN ARBOR

FREE CANCER SUPPORT
FOR ALL PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CANCER

- Free professionally-led support
- Open to patients, caregivers, and loved ones
- Join via Zoom or in person in Ann Arbor, Brighton, Canton, Chelsea, or Livonia

CancerSupportAnnArbor.org

Saint Clare's Episcopal Church

Saint Clare's Episcopal Church welcomes all those seeking a closer relationship with God. St. Clare's is a Christ-centered welcoming community that celebrates the joy of Christ's love through rich Episcopal tradition, diverse music, and innovative liturgy. Everyone is valued and included. This holiday season, two Christmas Eve services are offered: at 4 p.m., a drop-in Christmas pageant for all ages, and at 8 p.m., a festive communion service with carols. For those grieving this holiday, find solace at Quiet Christmas on December 15 at 7 p.m., where silence is honored for grief in a reflective service by candlelight.

2309 Packard St., Ann Arbor
(734) 662–2449 • saintclareschurch.org

Scanthology

Give the gift of memories—preserved beautifully and forever. **Scanthology** offers white-glove, in-home digitization and archival services for families who want to protect their legacy with expert care and craftsmanship. They come to you, organize, scan, and artfully archive photos, films, and documents—so your stories live on, not in the basement. Begin with the $150 Starter Session Gift Card, which includes an in-home consultation and the digitization of select photos, slides, or video. A meaningful, local gift that turns family boxes into lasting treasures.

(734) 926–0004 • scanthology.com/gift

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

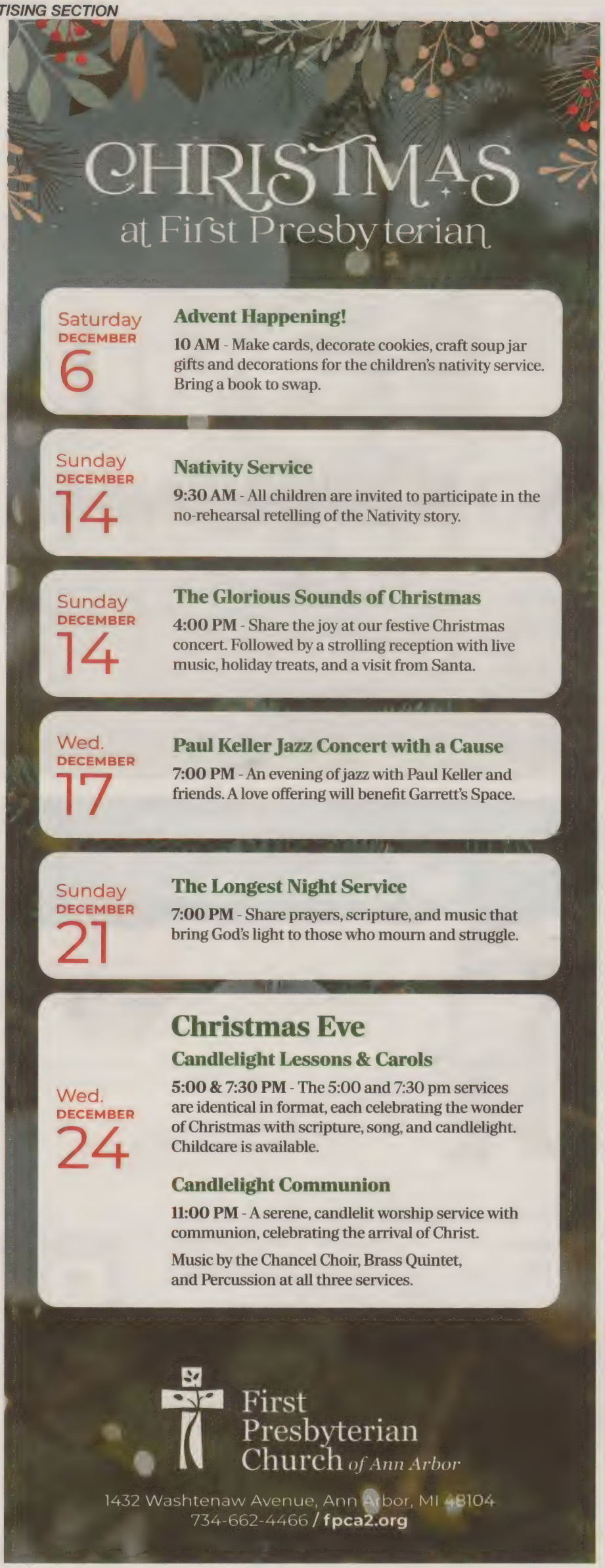
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church joyfully and unconditionally welcomes all to celebrate God's word this holiday season. Steeped in the rich heritage of liturgy and music, St. Andrew's is located in a beautiful historical building in downtown Ann Arbor. Holiday services include Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m. on December 21; Christmas Eve Family Service at 4 p.m. (3:45 p.m. prelude), and Choral Eucharist at 9:30 p.m. (9 p.m. prelude); and Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome.

306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor
(734) 663–0518 • standrewsaa.org

The Sunday Artisan Market

In 2026, the **Sunday Artisan Market** will be celebrating its thirty-fifth year as an independent cooperative of artists, artisans, and craftspeople in Ann Arbor. Held at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market pavilion in the heart of the historic Kerrytown shopping district, the Sunday Artisan Market is a unique gathering of local artists coming together every Sunday from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (April–December) to sell their handcrafted treasures. Browse jewelry, fiber arts, ceramics, leather, paintings, personal care products, furniture, and more. When you shop at the Sunday Artisan Market, you make a personal connection with the creator, support local artists, and help keep your dollars circulating within the community.

315 Detroit St., Ann Arbor
(734) 913–9622 • sundayartisanmarket.org



Why Should **Trees** Get All The **Ornaments**?

Stop in this holiday season and find something to hang on a loved one, or a gift for yourself (we won't tell).

205 E. LIBERTY ST. ANN ARBOR, MI • 734.994.4848 • @ABRAJEWELRY
SHOP ONLINE: ABRAGEM.COM • OPEN TUES - SAT 11 AM - 6 PM

SUSTAINABLY SOURCED FINE JEWELRY
REPAIRS • CUSTOM • APPRAISALS • GIFTS
SERVING DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR SINCE 1974

Through the Sponsorship of
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation,
You Can Also Help...

WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Needy Children

Is a local non-profit sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation that annually provides new winter clothing for children.

We ask for your donation to support this vital program for children in Washtenaw County. 100% of your donation goes directly to providing clothing.

WAYS TO DONATE:

- **Online:** www.a2kiwanis.org/WarmTheChildren
- **Mail:** Warm The Children c/o Old National Bank
  2723 S. State Street, Suite 110
  Ann Arbor, MI 48104

More information: mkcstewart61@gmail.com

BE A SHOPPER...
See the eyes of the children light up!

BE A DONOR...
Every dollar donated goes directly to the purchase of warm winter clothing for children of need.

OLD NATIONAL BANK

Kiwanis
CLUB OF ANN ARBOR FOUNDATION, INC.

2025 Holiday Guide

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church is an active and vibrant church whose core values are love, compassion, service, inclusion, earth-care, and connection. All are welcome to join in the joyful worship this holiday season, with Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m., and January 4 Choir Cantata at 11 a.m.

1500 Scio Church Rd., Ann Arbor
(734) 761–9320 • westpresa2.org

U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Come see *The Gondoliers* premiering **UMGASS's** third newly reorchestrated score. This lively performance features the dancing and singing talents of a mostly student cast. Two brothers, gondoliers Marco and Giuseppe, have recently married. Imagine their surprise when they learn that one of them is the heir to the Kingdom of Barataria and was married in infancy to the daughter of the Duke of Plaza Toro, making him a bigamist. But only their foster mother knows which one is the king, and she is nowhere to be found. Complicating matters, the Duke's beautiful daughter is in love with the family's footman. A last-minute plot twist brings humor, merriment, and an unforgettable ending. UMGASS was founded in 1947, and is the oldest student-run society nationwide dedicated to performing Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. UMGASS performs a Gilbert & Sullivan show twice a year with a full orchestra.

Thursday–Sunday, December 4–7
Tickets: muto.umich.edu
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
911 North University, Ann Arbor
(734) 647–8436 • umgass.org

The West End Grill

The West End Grill is Ann Arbor's crown jewel of fine dining. The West End Grill is Ann Arbor's special occasion dinner destination, where you will experience fine dining and unmatched elegance. The West End's imaginative menu reflects the restaurant's straddling of traditional American and Asian-influenced culinary worlds. Located in downtown Ann Arbor, private parties and specialty menus are available to provide a unique and intimate dining experience. Exclusive use of the restaurant and their next-level service add a special touch that will elevate your wedding, birthday, business function, or holiday party. The West End Grill turns thirty in 2025! Celebrate your thirty-something birthday at the West End Grill and receive your age as a percentage off your personal meal.

120 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
(734) 747–6260 • westendgrillannarbor.com

Westside Furniture Consignment Emporium

Westside Furniture Consignment Emporium carefully curates an ever-changing collection of upscale, nearly new furniture, home décor, and artwork. From timeless traditional to sleek contemporary and everything in between, their showroom features exceptional pieces with character and history. Westside Furniture takes pride in helping those who are downsizing, moving, or just need a change to find meaningful new homes for their cherished possessions—because every item has a story worth continuing.

283 S. Zeeb Rd., ste. C, Ann Arbor
(734) 929–4508 • wfce.net

WSG

It's that time of year again! Join **WSG Gallery** at their annual Holiday Show December 1–27. Each year, WSG transforms their gallery into an exciting art-filled gift market full of original art from favorite local artists. Offerings include paintings, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, fibers, small books, cards, and more. Stop by WSG's Holiday Reception on December 5 from 5–9 p.m.–reception is free and open to the public.

111 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor
(734) 929–2621 • wsg-art.com

Zion Lutheran Church

All are welcome to celebrate this Christmas season at **Zion Lutheran Church!** Holiday services include Christmas Eve services at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m., and Christmas Day service at 10 a.m. Zion seeks to boldly practice the way of Jesus, and encourages you to come as you are. Celebrating 150 years, Zion Lutheran Church is continuing to celebrate God's truth, gifts of faith, hope, love, and grace.

1501 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
(734) 994–4455 • zlc-aa.org

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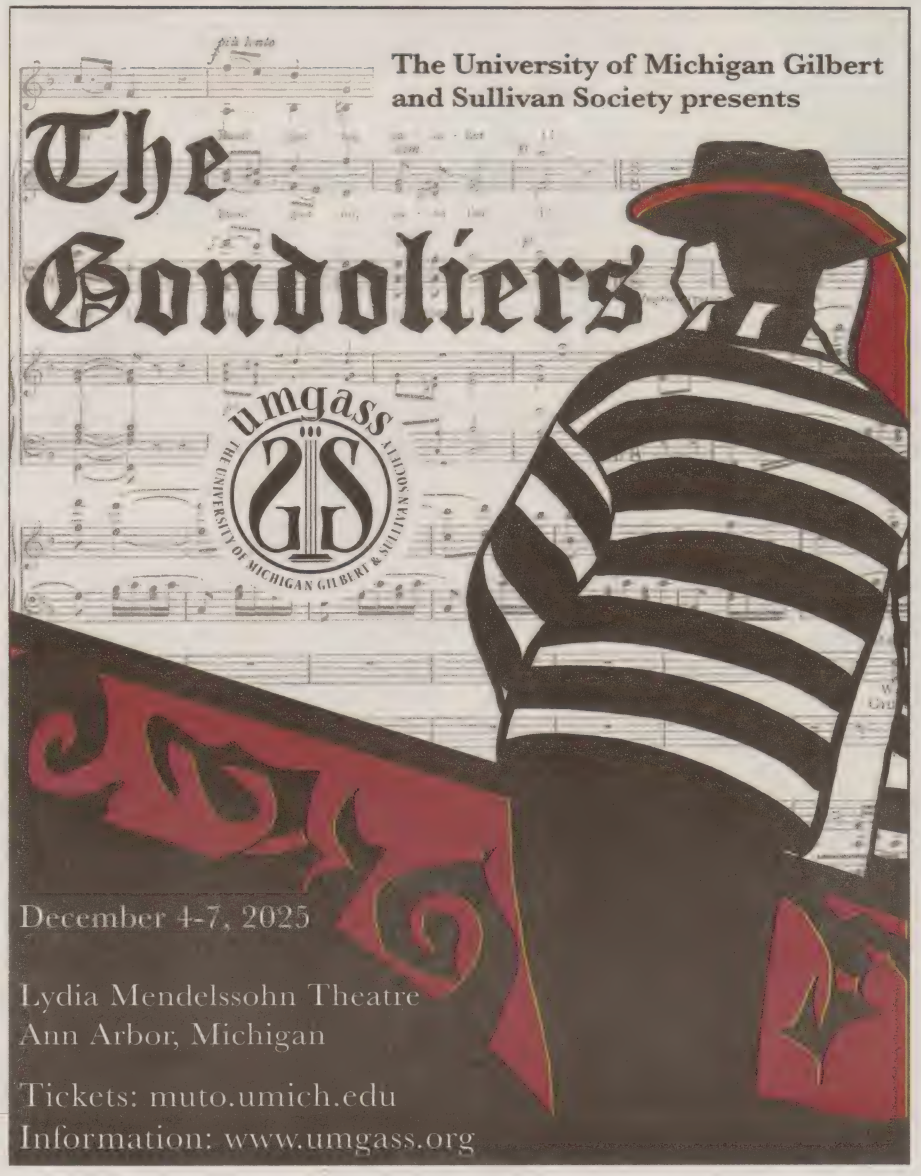


Music at Nightspots

by Michael Bright and John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club. Notable events are highlighted in pink.*

The Ark

316 S. Main **(734) 761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.–Sat. & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (734–763–TKTS) & theark.org, and at the door ($4 discount). **Dec. 2: The Empty Pockets.** Rootsy country-rock quartet from Chicago that describes its music as "catchy rock 'n' roll with a smack of Texas saloon and a taste of Motown soul." Tonight they play a holiday show that mixes seasonal classics like "Silent Night" and "Run Run Rudolph" with fresh and fun originals like "Party at the North Pole" and "Snow Day." $24. **Dec. 3: The Klezmatics.** Acclaimed veteran NYC klezmer band that mixes the traditional East European dance and party music with avant-garde jazz styles, gospel, punk, Latin, and Balkan music. Tonight's show is a Hanukkah celebration featuring songs from the band's 2006 album *Happy Joyous Hanukah* of klezmer songs set to lyrics by Woody Guthrie. $40. **Dec. 4: NewFound Road.** Highly regarded rootsy bluegrass band from southwestern Ohio known for its tight harmonies, driving groove, and what *AllMusic Guide* calls the "rich, chesty baritone roar" of lead singer Tim Shelton. The group has recently re-united after a 10-year hiatus, and has a brand-new single "Need to Get Some Highway In." $29. **Dec. 5: Dom Flemons.** Old-time music in the wide array of styles, from blues and hokum to pop characteristic of prewar songsters by this founding member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, an infectiously engaging vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who has also written a number of songs in old-time styles. *MOJO* magazine calls him "one of the most accomplished American Folk Artists… few have pumped as much lifeblood into tradition as he has." $29 (free for Ark members at the $50 Solo Level and above). **Dec. 6: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared in numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. $16 (seniors, students, & members, $15) at the door only. **Dec. 7: Jon McLaughlin.** Popular funk-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter from Anderson, Indiana. Tonight he performs a program of holiday music with Arkansas soul-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter **Kris Allen,** Juilliard-trained Broadway chanteuse and pop-soul singer **Morgan James,** and L.A.-based pop-soul singer-songwriter **David Davis.** $40. **Dec. 8: Over the Rhine.** Heartland songwriter rock, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet, a longtime Ark favorite. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. They're also known for their Christmas shows—they've released 3 albums of mostly original self-styled "reality Christmas" songs—and tonight's acoustic show features a mix of the band's Christmas and non-Christmas music. $35. **Dec. 9: Storm Large.** Veteran Portland (OR)–based pop-rock singer-songwriter best known as a finalist on the 2006 season of *Rock Star: Supernova.* Tonight she fronts her band, Le Bonheur, in "The Holiday Ordeal," a revue of songs ranging from "2000 Miles" and "Hallelujah" to "Sock It to Me Santa," and what she calls "the greatest holiday song never written for the holidays," Queen's "Somebody to Love." $40. **Dec. 11–13: Ebird & Friends Holiday Show.** Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the classy local eclectic band the Ragbirds who has also released a solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World,* is joined by several established and up-and-coming luminaries of the Michigan music scene for her very popular annual program of new and old holiday music, now in its 18th year. There is also a matinee show at 2 p.m. on Sat. $29–$40. **Dec. 14: Lucy Kaplansky.** Acclaimed singer-songwriter, and former clinical psychologist, known for her strong, supple voice and her wryly engaging blues- and country-flavored ballads. $29. **Dec. 15: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up (doors open 7:30 p.m.) to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members and students, free). **Dec. 16: "Community High Jazz Ark-tic Blast."** Two shows featuring various high school jazz ensembles. 6 & 8 p.m. $5. **Dec. 17: Mike Cooley.** Solo acoustic performance by this veteran Alabama roots-rock singer-songwriter & guitarist. A founding member of the immensely popular Southern rock band Drive-By Truckers, Cooley is best known for his sharp, evocative lyrics and distinctive guitar work. $35. **Dec. 18: Alicia Witt.** Piano-driven pop by this singer-songwriter who is also a film & TV actress. "Her melodic and buoyant sound harkens back to the works of Elton John, Billy Joel and Carole King," writes one *PopMatters* reviewer. Tonight she plays music from her Christmas album, *I Think I'm Spending Christmas With You.* $35. **Dec. 19: Tartan Terrors.** Not a band but a kind of Celtic variety show, mixing music with traditional folklore, dance, and humor. *Celtic Beat* hails the Tartan Terrors as "the heirs apparent to the [Celtic] Mayhem." $29. **Dec. 20: Blackthorn.** This veteran Royal Oak quartet plays a wide range of Celtic music, from contemporary Irish songs and traditional songs of emigration to sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and haunting ancient airs. $29. **Dec. 21: Mark Lavengood.** Best known as a former member of Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys, Lavengood is a bluegrass-oriented singer-songwriter and multi-instrumental virtuoso who Billy Strings calls "a great songwriter and a master on the dobro." Tonight he is joined by guest musicians TBA for a set of songs by John Prine. $29. **Dec. 27: Crossroads Ceili.** An evening of Celtic music, song, and dance hosted by Mick Gavin, a veteran Detroit Irish fiddler (and County Clare native), with an assortment of guest performers TBA. $29.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **(734) 996–8555**

This venerable club, founded in 1971, features live music by a variety of rock, pop, hip-hop, and other acts most Wed.–Sat., and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). All-ages shows are 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. or midnight. Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Doors open an hour before showtime. Cover (age 20 & under, $5 extra), dancing. Advance tickets at blindpigmusic.com/calendar. **Dec. 3: Seoul Juice.** Local K-pop cover band. $14. **Dec. 4: 90's Night at the Blind Pig."** With local rock bands impersonating popular 1990s acts, including **A Blurry Pink** as Weezer, **Flowers In Winter** as Everclear, **Killer Is Me** as Alice in Chains, and **Theatre Girl** as Oasis. $20. **Dec. 5: Yonder Mountain String Band.** All ages. This highly regarded progressive bluegrass quintet from Boulder, Colorado, blends the high lonesome harmonies and fast-paced picking of traditional bluegrass with a penchant for extended jams. The group's repertoire is a mix of originals with bluegrass and folk standards. "Yonder Mountain is a powerhouse quintet that can knock the door off its hinges," writes *Americana UK* in a review of the band's 2024 album, *Nowhere Next.* "It's clear the members of this band should be taken seriously as songwriters." $50. **Dec. 6: Jamie Register.** Ensemble led by this veteran local soul-funk singer-bassist whose music has been described as "Janis Joplin meets James Brown, meets Erykah Badu, meets Jim Morrison." Tonight he celebrates his 50th birthday. Openers: **Thunderbuck Ram,** an Ypsilanti power rock/funk trio and a DJ set by **DJ Nitro.** $14. **Dec. 10: Harmolodics.** Jazz ensemble led by local trumpeter Benjamin Green, a U-M grad. Drawing inspiration from the free improvisational style of Ornette Coleman, it uses electronics and electro-acoustic manipulations to convey feeling and passion through sonic freedom. Opener: **Purplereiign,** a Detroit soul and R&B singer-songwriter. $14. **Dec. 11: Red Not Chili Peppers.** Nationally touring Red Hot Chili Peppers tribute band. $22. **Dec. 12: The Band Feel.** Popular retro rock 'n' roll quartet from St. Louis whose music draws from early 70s psych-rock with a distinctly Zeppelin-esque flair. *Buddy* magazine calls them "a gut-punch of pure vintage rock." Opener: **Pearl,** a rock-inspired singer-songwriter from Grass Lake known for her raspy voice who has gained popularity through TikTok. $26. **Dec. 13: Lyons Lane.** Detroit-based alt-rock band. $18. **Dec. 18: The Bends.** Midwest Radiohead tribute band. $18. **Dec. 19: "Daft Disko: A French House & Disco Party."** Dance party featuring music by French touch (aka French house) and European disco acts, including Daft Punk, Breakbot, Justice, and others. $20. **Dec. 20: "Christmas Chaos VI."** With area heavy rock bands **Epic Disappointments, Godstine, Crush Doltra,** and **Stick Boom.** $20. **Dec. 26: "80s Night at the Blind Pig."** With local rock bands impersonating popular 1980s & 1990s acts, including **One Exit Down** as The Cars, **Ten and a Half** as Black Flag, **Lyloc** as Nirvana, and **John Connor & the Two-Track Heaven Band** as George Strait. $20. **Dec. 27: "Muruga's Birthday Bash!"** Worldbeat ensemble led by renowned percussionist Muruga Booker, a Detroit native who's played with everyone from Dave Brubeck and Babatunde Olatunji to Jerry Garcia and Stevie Wonder. $20. **Dec. 31: Pajamas.** New Year's Eve show by this local funk-rock jam quartet. Openers: **Chirp,** a popular local jazz-inflected progressive funk-rock quartet. $25.

COURTESY OF ENDEA OWENS

Detroit-bred, Juilliard-trained Endea Owens, longtime collaborator with Jon Batiste and member of *The Late Show*'s house band, will be at the Blue LLama December 5 and 6 with her band the Cookout.

The Blue LLama

314 S. Main **(734) 372–3200**

This jazz club/restaurant features live music sets at 7 & 8:30 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), 7 & 9 p.m. (Fri.), 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. (Sat.), 6 & 8 p.m. (Sun.), and late shows 10:15–11:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.). Except as noted, $25 cover per set, late night shows, $15. Dinner shows include a 3-course dinner. Advance tickets available at bluellamaclub.com. No dancing except for Latin jazz shows and as otherwise noted. **Dec. 3: David Janeway Trio.** NYC-based jazz ensemble, led by veteran Detroit-bred pianist Janeway, that plays bright and measured original tunes in the style of Bill Evans. "… not only is Janeway's playing sparkling but so is his ability to write tuneful compositions," says *All About Jazz* reviewer Michael P. Gladstone. **Dec. 5 & 6: Endea Owens & the Cookout.** Funk-inflected straight-ahead jazz ensemble led by this young Detroit-bred, Juilliard-trained jazz bassist. A longtime collaborator with Jon Batiste and member of *The Late Show's* house band Stay Human, Owens is known for her buoyant stage presence, swinging grooves, and rapid-fire bass fills. $50. **Dec. 7: Stella Cole.** Acclaimed young NYC-based jazz vocalist known for her classic yet contemporary interpretations of jazz standards, Broadway favorites, and tunes from the Great American Songbook, along with covers of pop songs, including the Billie Eilish hit "My Future." Tonight she plays songs from her Christmas album, *Snow!,* along with tunes from her self-titled debut album. With pianist Michael Kanan, bassist Mikey Migliore, and drummer Henry Allen-Barfield. $50. **Dec. 10: Aguankó.** Holiday show by this local Afro-Cuban jazz ensemble led by composer-percussionist Alberto Nacif. **Dec. 12: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With an ensemble led

by **Ron Brooks,** a veteran local bassist who plays bebop-rooted mainstream jazz. 5 p.m. Free. **Dec. 12: Robert Hurst & Black Currant Jam.** Jazz ensemble led by U-M jazz bass professor Hurst. 7 & 9 p.m. **Dec. 14: Gustavo Casenave.** Acclaimed NYC-based Uruguayan American tango pianist known for his ethereal and contemplative original compositions that incorporate elements of jazz and classical music. "A veteran of many high-profile tango shows, he clearly knows the conventions and the clichés and plays them beautifully with a wink, turning them this way and that," writes *JazzTimes* in a review of his 2012 album, *Tango Casenave.* "His tango (all but two tracks are originals) has the requisite melodrama but also the sparks and humor." $30. **Dec. 17: Kevin Brewster & Black Renaissance.** Detroit jazz fusion trio led by saxophonist Brewster. **Dec. 18: William Hill III Trio.** An ensemble led by Detroit bebop and straight-ahead jazz composer-pianist Hill. **Dec. 19: Marcus Elliot.** Jazz ensemble led by this Detroit-based saxophonist that blends contemporary jazz idioms with hip-hop and R&B influences. **Dec. 20: Nick Collins Sextet.** Jazz ensemble led by local drummer Collins. Their album, *The Late Set,* was recorded at a show at the Blue LLama in March 2024. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. **Dec. 20: Karim Gideon Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by Detroit trumpeter Gideon. 10:15–11:15 p.m. **Dec. 21: Maurice "Mobetta" Brown.** Veteran NYC-based trumpeter-arranger and hip-hop rapper whose distinct brand of urban-contemporary jazz incorporates neo-soul grooves and hip-hop verses. He has a brand-new album, *Betta Days,* that features collaborations with Kamasi Washington, MonoNeon, Rae Khalil, Cimafunk, and others. "From horn-driven anthems to funk-soaked meditations, *Betta Days* feels both deeply rooted and wildly forward-looking," writes one *Mundane* reviewer. It's "a testament to Brown's rare ability to bridge history and innovation." $50. **Dec. 26: Dawn Giblin Quintet.** Vintage prewar jazz ensemble led by Giblin, a Detroit vocalist whose influences include Connee Boswell, Billie Holiday, Mildred Bailey and Ella Fitzgerald. 5 & 6 p.m. Free. **Dec. 26: Sean Dobbins.** This veteran local drummer leads an ensemble in a holiday show. 7 & 9 p.m. **Dec. 27: Ralphe Armstrong Trio.** Jazz trio led by local bassist Armstrong. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. **Dec. 27: Bunkerman.** Electronic jazz duo of Travis Aukerman & Galen Bundy. 10:15–11:15 p.m. **Dec. 28: Brandon Rose & Soul Therapy.** Ensemble led by the young Detroit jazz bassist Rose, a recent MSU grad. **Dec. 31: Paul Keller Quintet.** Mainstream jazz by this local ensemble led by veteran bassist Keller. With pianist Adam Mosley, guitarist Ralph Tope, vibraphonist Cary Kocher, and vocalist-clarinetist Sarah D'Angelo. Dinner show: 7 p.m. $100. **Dec. 31: Thornetta Davis.** This acclaimed Etta James–style vocalist from Detroit leads a band in jump blues, Detroit-style R&B, and roots-rock. Dinner shows: 9:30 & 11:30 p.m. $195.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main (734) 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 6–9 p.m. or later. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session.

Crazy Wisdom Bookstore

114 S. Main (734) 665-9468

This local bookstore hosts monthly live music in its Celestial Lounge, 7:30–9:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 5: The Lamplighters Quartet.** Local barbershop quartet. Tonight they perform a festive program of traditional Christmas carols and secular winter tunes.

The Earle

121 W. Washington (734) 994–0211

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.–Thurs. 7–9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.–Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. Solo jazz pianists TBA occasionally substitute. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring drummer Robert Warren and a rotating roster of bassists and pianists.

El Limōn

2709 Plymouth Rd. (734) 780–7088

This Mexican-Mediterranean fusion restaurant in the Plymouth Mall Plaza features live music Mon. & Thurs. 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Indie Rock Royalty.** An eclectic mix of covers, parodies, and originals by this local quartet. **Dec. 4: Jeff Bainter.** An eclectic mix of classic rock covers by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 5: Alvorada.** Latin-Mediterranean jazz by the local duo of vocalist Jade Rosa and guitarist G Estefan. **Dec. 8: Kandy Fredrick & Cameron Getto.** Originals, country, folk, and some classic rock by this local singer-songwriter duo. **Dec. 11: The Jaybees.** Local acoustic Americana quartet fronted by Switchbacks vocalist Janet Benson and singer-guitarist John Baltic. With bassist Patrick Little and drummer Dave Wak. **Dec. 13: Joe Summers.** Veteran local jazz guitar virtuoso. He is joined tonight by Medicine Men guitarist Pete Bullard. **Dec. 15: The Revelators.** Blues and folk music by the local roots music trio of singer-guitarists Ralph McKee, Steve Rich, and Jill Baker. **Dec. 18: Craig Brann.** Local rock-flavored pop-jazz singer-songwriter. **Dec. 22: Mary Ann Kirt.** Pop-folk and indie rock originals by this local singer-guitarist. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 29: Ralph Santarpia.** Local singer-songwriter whose music draws on early rock 'n' roll, pop, and country influences. He also covers some of the songs that have influenced him.

The Habitat Lounge

3050 Jackson Rd. (734) 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features live jazz Fri. & Sat. 9–11 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Fri. & Sat.: Habitat Jazz Collective.** Jazz originals and standards by a local ensemble led by singer-bassist Rob Crozier. The Dec. 4 show features guest musician **Kelly McDermott,** an energetic local singer-flutist who fronts the jazz-Celtic fusion ensemble Nessa.

The Last Word

301 W. Huron St. (734) 585–5691

This downtown cocktail bar features live music Thurs. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: The Pherotones.** A wide range of jazz and jazzed-up popular music, from the 1920s to the present, by this all-star local quartet. With trumpeter Ross Huff, pianist Giancarlo Aversa, bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer Wes Fritzemeier.

LIVE

102 S. First St. (734) 623–1443

This lounge features live music Fri. during happy hour 6:30–9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Dec. 5: The Medicine Men.** This local dance quintet plays classic R&B and Motown. With vocalist Terry Samuels, guitarist Pete Bullard, keyboardist Andy Adamson, bassist Doug Katchorek, and drummer Mike Moneart. They are backed by the **Westside Girls,** the vocal duo of Cheryl McIntire and Carol Shaw. **Dec. 12: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. **Dec. 19: Al Jacquez Band.** All-star local ensemble led by veteran local blues and blues-rock singer-guitarist Jacquez. With keyboardist & guitarist Tom Loncaric, bassist Randy Tessier, and drummer Rich Dishman. **Dec. 26: Chris Casello Trio.** Roots-rock and rockabilly by an ensemble led by Ann Arbor–bred singer-guitarist Casello, an indomitable rocker best known locally (before moving to Nashville more than 20 years ago) as one of the twin lead guitarists in the Watusies and as the frontman of the Starlight Drifters. With Chicago bassist Jesse Woelfel and veteran local drummer Rich Dishman.

Mash Ann Arbor

211 E. Washington (734) 222–4095

This lounge in the basement of Slows Bar BQ features live music Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 4: The Reason You Came.** Detroit rock party band that covers songs from the current century. **Dec. 5. Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 6: JP & the Energy.** Contemporary pop-rock and pop-punk covers and originals by this Lansing trio. **Dec. 12:** TBA. **Dec. 13: Dave Menzo Band.** Ensemble led by local pop-rock singer-songwriter Menzo. **Dec. 18: Brothers 3.** Toledo ensemble whose music is an eclectic, danceable mix of jazz, funk, R&B, soul, and rock. **Dec. 19: Finding Amelia.** Local quartet whose music is a mix of rock, pop, and metal idioms. The band recently released its debut album, *Onwards & Upwards.* Opener: **TV Blackout,** an Ypsi psychedelic blues-rock trio. **Dec. 20: Cetan Clawson Experience.** Veteran Monroe psychedelic blues-rock trio. **Dec. 26: The Reason You Came.** See above. **Dec. 27: V.A.S.E.** Brighton rock quintet.

Mash Ypsilanti

400 W. River St., Ypsi (734) 441–6200

This bar in the Thompson Bldg. in Depot Town features music Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.–midnight. Trivia (7–9 p.m.) and karaoke (9 p.m.–midnight) on Thurs. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 5: DJ Cuvee.** DJ with dance records. **Dec. 6: Shelby & Jake.** Lansing husband-and-wife duo of acoustic country-pop singer-guitarists. **Dec. 12: Brenna Collins & Jessey Adams.** Double bill. Singer-songwriter Collins is best known as the guitarist in the local jam-rock band Stormy Chromer, and Adams is a Lansing-area country singer-songwriter. **Dec. 13:** TBA. **Dec. 19: Jay Frydenlund.** See Moonwinks. **Dec. 20: Traveling Yanchos.** Versatile Livingston County classic, rock, country, & blues quartet. **Dec. 26: Reeds & Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and a guitarist TBA.

Moonwinks Tavern

5151 Plymouth Rd. (734) 994–5151

This bar located next to the Moonwinks Café features live music, mostly folk-rock & Americana, Wed. & Thurs. (7–9 p.m.), Fri. & Sat. (7:30–9:30 p.m.), along with occasional Tues. shows, karaoke every Mon. (6–8 p.m.), & a monthly open mic. No cover, except as noted; $10 suggested donation; no dancing. **Dec. 5: Ananda Murari Duo.** Eclectic blues-tinged indie-folk by this Ypsilanti singer-songwriter & guitarist. **Dec. 6: Jeff McNiven Duo.** Veteran Michigan acoustic roots rock and alt-country singer-songwriter. **Dec. 9: Eric Moore.** Bluesy folk-rock singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist. **Dec. 10: Open Mic.** Hosted by local folk-rock singer-songwriter Tavey Lean. **Dec. 12: Jay Frydenlund.** Chirp singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. **Dec. 13: The Roadside Silhouettes.** Local rock cover trio. **Dec. 19: Evergreen.** Detroit-area alt-rock duo. **Dec. 20: Steve Pichan Trio.** Pop-folk & Americana ensemble led by this Novi singer-songwriter. **Dec. 27: The Widdershins.** See North Star Lounge.

North Star Lounge

301 N. Fifth Ave. nstarlounge.com

This music room & bar affiliated with the Detroit Street Filling Station next door features live music, mostly folk-rock & Americana, Wed., Fri., and Sat. 6:30–10 p.m. Also, Thurs. 7–10 p.m., LGBTQ Night features a rotating mix of DJs, trivia, karaoke, and bingo. $10–$20 cover (happy hour shows, free), no dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at nstarlounge.com/events and (if available) at the door. **Dec. 3: Chuchu Houle.** South Lyon pop-folk singer-songwriter. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 3: Poetry Open Mic.** All invited to bring a poem or monologue. Hosted by cat h. bradley & Forrest Hejkal. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. 7–10 p.m. **Dec. 4: Calvin Ohi & Aidan Hammel.** U-M student jazz guitar duo. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 4: "Queer Open Mic."** All invited to bring a song, story, poetry, comedy, expression, magic, monologue, or other performance. Hosted by Coley Roberts and Thea Zuby. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. **Dec. 5: Randy Tessier Band.** This veteran local rock 'n' roll bassist leads an ensemble in a variety of original tunes, along with covers of everything from Mel Torme to the Beatles. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 5: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** Local bluegrass quartet known for its beautiful vocal harmonies and instrumental prowess. Tonight they are joined by fiddler **Emily Slomovits.** 7–10 p.m. $10. **Dec. 6: RJ Redline Band.** Detroit-area nostalgic country-rock band led by big-voiced singer-guitarist Redline. 6–7:15 p.m. $15. **Dec. 6: Annie & Rod Capps Quartet.** Ensemble led by this veteran local husband-and-wife duo of singer-guitarists whose repertoire consists mainly of Annie's thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs and ballads that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. 8:30–9:45 p.m. $20. **Dec. 10: Ben Seguin.** Local singer-songwriter and guitarist who sings short, funny songs about dysfunctional relationships, consumerism, and cheese fries. Tonight he is joined by bassist **Graham Rockwood.** 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 12: Bart Moore & The Hot Boys of Jenison.** Folk-rock & Americana quartet led by veteran Lansing-area singer-songwriter & guitarist Moore. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 12: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by saxophonist **Jack Wagner.** 7–10 p.m. $10. **Dec. 13: "Holiday Celebration Featuring The Santa Band."** Christmas and holiday favorites by this ad hoc ensemble of North Star regulars including Grant Flick, Andres Soto, Ryan Schildcrout, Jack Harris, various members of the Gerace Family, and

others. 6–7:15 p.m. $15. **Dec. 13: North Ingalls Band.** U-M student indie pop-folk groove septet. 8:30–9:45 p.m. $30. **Dec. 17: Kat Steih.** Ethereal folk-rock by this local singer-songwriter whose music is described by one *AllMusic* reviewer as "an infectious anthem of femme power." 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 17: "Community Drum Circle."** A hand drum session led by Sundance. Extra drums available. 7–10 p.m. Free. **Dec. 18: Nick James.** Detroit-area country-folk singer-songwriter. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 19: The Widdershins.** A new local country-folk & Americana ensemble led by veteran singer-songwriter & guitarist Milan Seth. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 19: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by fiddler **Wesley Fritzemeier.** 7–10 p.m. $10. **Dec. 20: The Minor Pieces.** A new local quartet who play soulful ballads and raucous anthems. 6–7:15 p.m. $20. **Dec. 20: "Songwriters Circle."** *Sold out.* **Dec. 26: Ralph McKee Blues Trio.** Energetic, sophisticated blend of danceable soul, blues, and rock by this band led by Hoodang bassist McKee. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Dec. 26: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by guitarist **Dylan Charles** (see below). 7–10 p.m. $10. **Dec. 27: Dylan Charles.** An Ann Arbor–bred, NYC-based indie soul-folk singer-songwriter & guitarist best known as the cofounder of the Brooklyn rock 'n' soul quartet On the Sun. Tonight he plays a set of catchy original songs from forthcoming album *Redemption.* $15. 6–7:15 p.m. **Dec. 27: Tinkerhess Family Band.** Ensemble led by veteran local folk singer-songwriter Paul Tinkerhess. Tonight he is joined by his son cellist Eric Tinkerhess and Eric's wife, Mana, on harp. $15. 8:30–9:45 p.m. **Dec. 31: Crescent City Quintet.** Two New Year's Eve shows by this local ensemble, led by guitarist Alex Belhaj, that plays a range of New Orleans jazz styles, from struts, stomps, cakewalks, and rags to pop tunes, marches, and classical favorites. 7 & 10 p.m. $35 (includes a glass of sparkling wine).

Old Town

122 W. Liberty (734) 662–9291

This downtown corner bar features live music the first Sun. of each month, 7–9 p.m. Cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Oz's Music Environment

1922 Packard (734) 662–8283

This storefront next to Oz's Music store features occasional live music. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Dec. 18: Drum Circle.** All invited to drum with renowned local percussionist **Maruga Booker**, who has played with the likes of George Clinton, Jerry Garcia, and Weather Report. 7 p.m. **Dec. 23: "Tree Town Uke Drop-In."** Musicians of all ability levels invited to play ukulele with members of Michigan's oldest ukulele club. 7–9 p.m.

The Ravens Club

207 S. Main (734) 214–0400

This downtown bar & grill features live jazz Sun. 7–10 p.m. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. $5 cover, no dancing. **Dec. 7: Max Bowen Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Bowen, a U-M music grad. **Dec. 14: Jesse Kramer.** Jazz ensemble led by this local drummer. **Dec. 21:** TBA. **Dec. 28: Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet.** Local composer-bassist Sharp leads this world music–based jazz ensemble that tonight showcases *Catalyst,* their new album of tunes by Gregg Hill, a Lansing jazz composer whose music incorporates ideas from blues and swing that give musicians interesting material with which to improvise. With violinist Henrik Karapetyan, percussionist Mike List, and guest guitarist Elden Kelly. .

Rumpus Room

506 N. Main, Chelsea (734) 616–6646

Music room inside Jet's Pizza features occasional live music. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 5: Strawberry Lake.** Dexter alt-country quintet formerly known as Mercury Switch. No cover. 7–10 p.m. **Dec. 6: Laith Al-Saadi.** Solo performance by this local singer-guitarist, a former finalist on *The Voice* whose repertoire is an eclectic mix of roots Americana, classic rock, and blues, including many originals. *Guitar World* calls him "a cross between Danny Gatton and Buddy Guy at their best." His 2016 CD, *Real,* a collection of songs drawing on blues, country, gospel, and roots rock, was recorded in L.A. with an all-star cast of session legends, and he won a 2018 Detroit Music Award for his 4-song EP of Jimi Hendrix covers. 7–10:30 p.m. **Dec. 12: Ugly Radio.** Frank Zappa tribute band. No cover. 8:30 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 19: The Mighty Swells.** Grateful Dead tribute band. 7:30–10:30 p.m. **Dec. 23: Abbey Rose & Co.** Acoustic classic rock covers and originals in the same vein by this local band fronted by vocalist Rose. 5–8:30 p.m. **Dec. 26: Washtenaw County Funk & Disco.** With DJ Batz and Evan Oswald. 8–11:50 p.m.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi
(734) 482–5320

This popular downtown Ypsi tavern features live music Thurs., and occasional Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Open Mic.** All musicians invited. Hosted by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley.

Ypsi Alehouse

124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi (734) 487–1555

This brewpub features live music Tues.-Sat. 7–9 p.m. & Sun. 2–4 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 4: Wilson & Brenner Co.** Guitar/keys/vocals blues-jazz duo. **Dec. 5: Pete SG & Friends.** Indie rock & alt-country covers and originals by an ensemble led by this local singer-guitarist. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 5: Steve Somers & Friends.** Jazz & blues standards by an ensemble led by WCC jazz guitar instructor Somers. **Dec. 6: Malty Taskers.** Old-time music from blues and country to hokum by this local quintet. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 6: Wind, Wood, & Steel.** Jazzy folk-rock covers and originals by Mark Clevey, Jeremy Seligman, and Bill Connnors, a local trio whose instrumentation includes guitars, flute, mandola, and keyboard. **Dec. 9: Open Mic**. All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Skinned Knees. 6:45 p.m. **Dec. 10: The After Hours**. Local jazz ensemble. **Dec. 11: Tony Linzmeier & Michael Snyder-Barker.** An eclectic mix of 80s New Wave and acoustic rock covers & originals by this local singer-songwriter duo. **Dec. 12: George Gardiner.** An eclectic mix of folk, rock, and pop, along with some originals, by this local singer-guitarist. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 12: Indie Rock Royalty.** An eclectic mix of covers and originals, including some parodies, by this local quartet. **Dec. 13: John Finan.** Canton folk-rock singer-songwriter. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 13: Mark Williams Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by pianist Williams and featuring vocalist Judi Williams. **Dec. 13: Let's Pretend.** This local trio, led by bassist Tim Berla and fronted by vocalist Naya Loftus, features a repertoire of jazz, country, and pop tunes, along with Berla originals. With guitarist Jim Cooney. 9:30–11:30 p.m.. **Dec. 14: Steve Somers & Friends.** See above. **Dec. 16: Open Mic.** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by singer-songwriter Phil McMillion. **Dec. 17: Deep Steam.** Ypsilanti quartet that plays jazz, rock, and soul covers, along with some originals. **Dec. 18: Focus: Jazz.** Mainstream jazz by the local trio of keyboardist Jeff Fessler, saxophonist Jeff Kopmanis, and bassist Will van Kampen. **Dec. 19: No Conflict.** Local acoustic alt-rock & alt-country quintet. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 19: Bark's Tales.** Folk-rock originals and occasional covers by local singer-songwriter Michael Snyder-Barker. **Dec. 20: Rounding Third.** Local folk-rock quartet with bluegrass & Irish music flavors whose instrumentation features guitars, banjo, flute, and keyboard. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 20: Irish-ish,** Trio from the Malty Taskers that plays traditional Irish music and Irish pub songs. **Dec. 21: Ann Arbor/ Ypsi Acoustic Jammers.** All singers and acoustic musicians invited for an open mic followed by an hour of jamming. Participants welcome to bring chord-and-lyric sheets of any well-known song for the jam. **Dec. 23: Open Mic**. All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Skinned Knees. 6:45 p.m. **Dec. 26: David Mackres.** Local singer-guitarist who plays 70s covers, along with a mix of Scotch-Irish, folk, jazz, and occasional ragtime tunes. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 26: Mary & the Huzz Band.** The local husband-and wife duo of singer-guitarists Mary & Eric Fithian performs covers by the likes of Hank Williams, the Beatles, and Joni Mitchell. **Dec. 27: Ron Shelton.** Americana country-rock and folk-rock covers by this local singer-guitarist. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Dec. 27: Kandy & Steven.** Mother and son duo, old school country, folk and bluegrass. **Dec. 28: Steve Somers & Friends.** See above. **Dec. 30: McLaughlin's Alley.** Detroit Irish-tinged pop-rock quintet fronted by sibling singer-songwriters Tina and Maureen Paraventi.

Zal Gaz Grotto

2070 W. Stadium (734) 663–1202

This Masonic social and service club features live music Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7–11 p.m. (except July & Aug.), Tues. 5–7 p.m., Wed. 6–8 p.m., & Thurs.–Sat. 8–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. The venue features a full bar and a kitchen that serves California- & Colorado-inspired progressive Mexican food.

Yonder Mountain String Band plays the Blind Pig December 5.

Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings. Local 10-piece big band led by tubaist Chris Smith that specializes in the old-time big band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. **Every Mon.** (except Dec. 22 & 29)**: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 14-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest college student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Easy Street Jazz Band.** Early jazz classics from Scott Joplin and Bessie Smith to Louis Armstrong and beyond by this veteran local septet led by trombonist Terry Kimura. **Dec. 4: Eric Moore & Guy Talk.** Bluesy folk-rock quintet led by singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist Moore. **Dec. 5: The Switchbacks.** Local hard-rocking country and blues quintet fronted by vocalist Janet Benson. **Dec. 6:** Closed. **Dec. 11: Prior Art.** A mix of originals and 60s–90s rock covers by this local quintet. With guest vocalist Rachel Arnsdorf. **Dec. 12: Ain't Dead Yet.** Local classic rock cover band. **Dec. 13: The Extrusions.** Local dance band with a huge repertoire of classic, New Wave, and modern rock hits and forgotten gems from the 1960s through the 2010s. **Dec. 18: Funk Opus.** Local R&B-funk septet. **Dec. 19: Tall Cool One.** Robert Plant/Led Zeppelin tribute band led by local drummer-vocalist T. Kinks Heiss. **Dec. 20: Spark.** A wide range of dance-friendly pop-rock by this local quartet fronted by vocalist Robin Grant. **Dec. 26: The Velvet Walrus.** Local dance band with a huge repertoire of classic, New Wave, and modern rock hits. **Dec. 27: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexee.* **Dec. 31: The Cellar Cats.** An eclectic mix of rock 'n' roll, Motown, blues, soul, and R&B—mostly from the 1960s & 70s—by this finely tuned ensemble of veteran local musicians that's fronted by vocalists Patty O'Connor, who plays keyboards and flute, and Myron Grant, who plays harmonica and guitar. With guitarist Phil Ryski, saxophonist and congas player Charles Dayringer, bassist Terry Gordinier, and drummer Rocky DiIacovo. 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

Ziggy's

206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi
ziggysypsi.com

This downtown Ypsi coffeehouse-bar features live music Tues.–Sat., and occasional Sun. & Mon. 8–11 p.m. Cover (usually), dancing. **Dec. 2: "Open Jazz Jam."** All jazz musicians & singers invited. Hosted by drummer **John Blanchette. Dec. 3:** TBA. **Dec. 4: Skinned Knees.**Ypsilanti indie pop-folk singer-songwriter. Openers TBA. **Dec. 5: Disco Behemoth.** Kalamazoo experimental ambient band Openers: **Cult of the Space Ball,** an occult-themed Detroit hardcore punk band known for their raucous, blood-soaked live shows, along with the local experimental electronica collective **Horse Bomb,** and the Detroit experimental free jazz ensemble **Game Park. Dec. 6: Brawny Lad.** Ypsilanti acoustic trio whose sound blends a number of American musical traditions. Opener: **Chris Bathgate,** a veteran local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs exploring existential crises in a variety of moods and modes. **Dec. 7: "Voss Movie Night."** Jason Voss hosts screenings of 2 John Carpenter movies TBA. **Dec. 9: Different Lights Ensemble.** Free jazz and improvisations by this large ensemble led by local bassist Leigh Daniels. **Dec. 10: "Gear Lords: A Night in Electronic Music."** Monthly gathering of live electronic production musicians, using beat machines, samplers, modular systems, synths and similar instruments. Tonight: local synth artist **SKURWYSN** (7 p.m.), the local electronic hardware duo of **Elevator Raider** and **Waylau** (7:45 p.m.), Chicago postindustrial artist **June Doom** (8:30 p.m.), Detroit techno artist **Dillon Preech** (9:30 p.m.), and local "synthwave" ambient artist **OMO** (10:30 p.m.). **Dec. 11: Past Dog Beach.** Self-styled postpunk "Bohemian goth" Detroit band led by singer-songwriter Keith Christmas. Openers: **Origami Phase,** a Detroit postpunk dreampop quartet and **Roil Treatment,** a Michigan rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 12: Sonic Smut.** Detroit psychedelic art-rock trio. Openers: the local rock 'n' roll garage quartet **ZZvava,** the Ypsilanti synth-rock band **Saga,** and the Detroit hardcore band **Supreme Mystic. Dec. 13: "734 Saturdays."** Open mic, along with a featured performer TBA. Sign-up starts at 7 p.m. **Dec. 14: Open Mic.** Performing artists in all genres invited. Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 16: Desmond Lorenz Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by this young local bassist. **Dec. 17: "A Krampus Christmas Special.** Local jazz ensemble led by bassist Jon Hammonds and synth player Galen Bundy. **Dec. 18: Dave Sharp's SonoSphere.** Local electroacoustic improvisational ensemble led by bassist and synthesizer player Sharp. **Dec. 19: Ozone House Benefit.** With bands TBA. **Dec. 20: "Annual Superfly Toy Drive."** Hip-hop show hosted by Dre Dave. Performers TBA. **Dec. 21: "The Sunday Circle."** A set by a house band led by local jazz trumpeter Ingrid Racine. Followed by an open mic for vocalists, instrumentalists (including electronic), MCs, & poets. **Dec. 23: Marc Smith.** All-star local jazz ensemble led by drummer Smith. With saxophone & flutist Doug Horn, guitarist Jake Reichbart, and bassist David Stearns. **Dec. 27:** TBA. **Dec. 30:** TBA. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Celebration."** With the DJ collective House of Jealous Lovers.

DJs & Dance Clubs

Club Above

215 N. Main (734) 686–4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features DJs spinning Latin music Mon. and Pride Night Fri. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover.

Elks Lodge

220 Sunset. (734) 761–7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features a lineup of local house DJs Thurs. and occasional music other nights. Free.

Lo-Fi

220 S. Main (lower level)
(734) 369–6070

Casual bar beneath the Nightcap cocktail lounge features DJs with dance music Wed.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m., and occasional live music 8–9:40 p.m. Free.

Necto

516 E. Liberty (734) 994–5835

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 3 nights a week: Mon., Fri., & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover.

December Events

NIGHTSPOTS

62 Music this month
John Hinchey & Michael Bright

SENIORS

70 Events for seniors
Jennifer Taylor, Emily Pinsuwan, & Michael Bright

HOLIDAY

76 Art shows & bazaars
Jennifer Taylor

GALLERIES

78 Exhibits this month
Jennifer Taylor

FILMS

80 Viewings this month
Jennifer Taylor, Emily Pinsuwan, & Michael Bright

KIDS CALENDAR

82 Events for kids 12 and under
Jennifer Taylor, Emily Pinsuwan, & Michael Bright

COURTESY OF THE ENCORE

The Encore Musical Theatre Company mounts the Disney favorite, *Frozen*, Dec. 4–Jan. 11.

TIPS FOR READING

Published events reflect plans as of press day (November 19), while the most up-to-date calendar is available at **annarborobserver.com.**

Our online calendar is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of events not listed in print.

★ **Denotes a free event**

Pink highlight denotes a notable event.

Yellow highlight denotes an event available on a2tix.

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their first occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

We want to know about your event! Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month.**

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** (734) 769–3175

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County of interest to our readers.

Please submit listings as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in print, but may be added to our online calendar.

Due to space limitations, many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar.

Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

U-M students hold an "Art Tank Pitch Competition" to convince curators to add to the U-M Museum of Art's collection on Dec. 1.

1 MONDAY

Carillon Concert Series: U-M School of Music. *Dec. 1–5 & 8.* U-M carillon faculty and students play the bells on the U-M's massive 55-bell Baird Carillon at Burton Tower and the 60-bell Lurie Carillon on North Campus. The bell towers are open to visitors during the recitals for those who'd like to get a closer look; earplugs recommended. For performers see smtd.umich.edu/events. *Noon, Burton Tower, 230 N. Ingalls & 1:20 p.m., Lurie Tower, 1230 Murfin, North Campus. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. & Thurs. through Dec. 18.* Play open to all skill levels age 18+, both non-sanctioned (Mon. 12:30–3:30 p.m.) and ACBL-sanctioned (Thurs. noon–3:30 p.m.). *12:30 p.m. (Mon.) & noon (Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5 (Mon.) & $9 (Thurs.); $1–$2 less for AASC members. (734) 794–6250, a2gov.org/senior, annarborbridge.com.*

★**"Family Formation and Migration: The Legacy of the Opioid Epidemic": U-M Economics Department.** University of Toronto economics professor Carolina Arteaga discusses how the opioid epidemic has affected family formation and migration decisions by individuals. *4–5:30 p.m., 201 Lorch Hall, 611 Tappan. Free. (734) 764–2355.*

★**"Polish Cinema in the 20th and 21st Centuries: From the Center to the Margins": U-M Center for Polish Studies.** Panel discussion with University of Warsaw cultural studies professor Elzbieta Durys and University of Krakow cultural studies professor Magdalena Zdrodowska. *5–6:30 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–0351.*

★**Group Runs: Ann Arbor Running Company (AARC).** *Every Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Sat. (different AARC locations).* Runners of all abilities invited to join a 5K mapped route (Mon. & Thurs.), an interval-based training run (Tues.), or either a beginner or advanced group run *(Sat.). 6 p.m. (Mon.), Corner Brewery, 720 Norris, Ypsi; 6 p.m. (Tues.) & 7 a.m. (Sat.), AARC Downtown, 209 S. Ashley; and 6 p.m. (Thurs., except Nov. 27), AARC Colonnade, 901 W. Eisenhower. Free. annarborrunningcompany.com.*

★**"Make a Resin Bookmark and Page Holder": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to use epoxy and other supplies to craft a bookmark and small page holder to take home. Led by Saginaw-based craft instructor Lee Ann. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"What Is a Christmas Movie?": Marquee Arts/Hear.Say Brewing Community Film Club. All invited to a discussion, led by Michigan Theater staff, about what movies really deserve the title of "Christmas classics," and which are just movies that are set during Christmas. Also, interactive games and other activities, trivia. Holiday costume contest. Beer and food for sale. *6 p.m., Hear.Say Brewing + Theater, 2350 W. Liberty St. Free admission, reservation requested at marquee-arts.org/calendar.*

★**"Art Tank Pitch Competition": UMMA Subject Matters.** Teams of U-M business school students try to convince UMMA curators, as part of a business of art course, to add specific works to UMMA's permanent collection. UMMA will, indeed, purchase the winning team's choice. Hosted by UMMA curator Dave Choberka. *6–7:30 p.m., UMMA Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. (734) 764–0395, umma.umich.edu/events.*

★**Group Runs: A2 Runners.** *Every Mon., Wed., & Sun.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a beginner or advanced 3- to 5-mile group run, followed by socializing at a downtown coffee shop. *6:30 p.m. (Mon. & Wed.) & noon (Sun.), meet at the Kerrytown clock tower. Preregistration requested at meetup.com/a2runners. Free. stevesttn88@gmail.com.*

★**"A Story for Everything": Ann Arbor Jewish Book Series.** The Moth StorySlam's host **Corey Rosen** discusses his new how-to guide on "mastering storytelling for every occasion." Signing. *6:30–8 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free, preregistration required at jlive.app/events/13366. (734) 971–0990, jccannarbor.org.*

Magic: The Gathering: Sylvan Factory. *Every Mon.–Wed., except Dec. 24, Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play both casual and tournament forms of the collectible card game Magic: The Gathering (MTG). *Mon. (6:30 p.m.):* **"Just Another Modern Monday."** Three rounds using powerful cards, for experienced players, with prizes. $10. *Tues. (6:30 p.m.):* **"MTG Pauper."** A fun and fast format for all skill levels, three rounds. $5. *Wed. & Sat. (5 p.m.):* **"Casual Commander Night."** A drop-in session of the most popular form of the game. Free. *Wed. (6:30 p.m.):* **"MTG Standard Showdown."** Three rounds, with competitive tournament rules, prizes of store credit. $10. *Fri. (6:30 p.m.):* **"Friday Night Magic."** Cost and format vary. *Various times, Sylvan Factory, 2459 W. Stadium. Various costs. (734) 929–5877, sylvanfactory.com.*

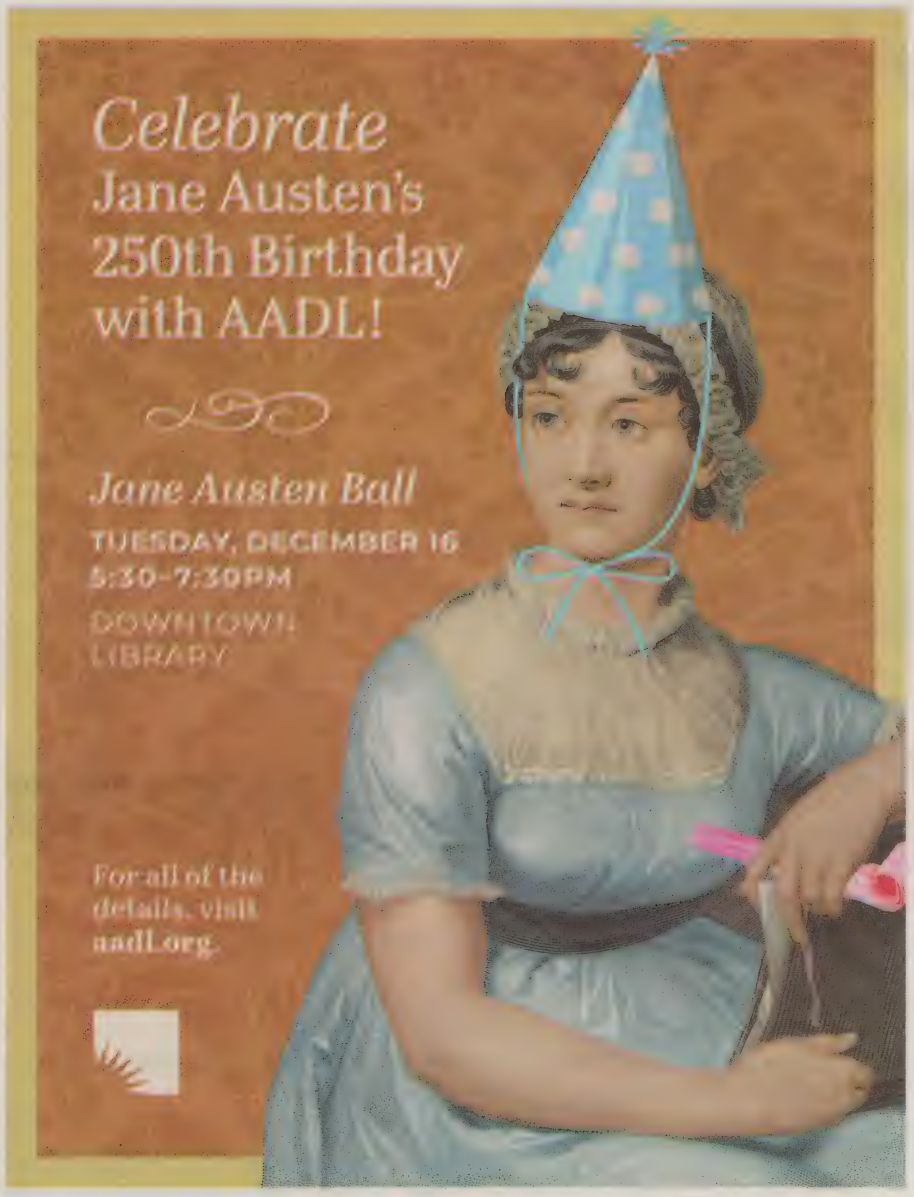
★**"An Evening of Electronic Music, Noise Making, & Dancing": U-M Residential College.** RC music students perform a variety of original electronic music compositions that they've been working on throughout the year. With a video installation by RC arts & ideas major Kaes Holkeboer. *7 p.m., East Quad Keene Theater, 701 East University. Free. (734) 647–4354.*

Tartan and Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon., except Dec. 29.* Learn to dance jigs, reels, and strathspeys. All dances taught. Usually with live music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and friends. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 suggested donation (first-timers free). (734) 474–7299, (734) 274–0773.*

★**Comedy Show: The Blind Pig.** *Every Mon.* Performances from up to 15 aspiring stand-up comics from around the state. Local comics emcee. Age 21 & up only. Free candy. *8–9:30 p.m., Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Free. (734) 996–8555.*

2 TUESDAY

"36th Annual Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers. *Dec. 2–6.* Live outdoor broadcasts by radio station 107one DJs. Cash and nonperishable food donations requested.



★ *Denotes a free event*

6 a.m.–7 p.m., Kroger, 400 S. Maple. Free admission. (734) 761–2796.

★**Ann Arbor Group Runs: Fleet Feet.** *Every Tues., Wed., & Sun., except Dec. 24.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a run of 3–5 miles along varying routes from different locations. Rain or shine. *8 a.m. (Sun.) & 7 a.m. (Tues.), Dozer Coffee, 112 Jackson Plz., and 7 p.m. (Wed.), Fleet Feet, 123 E. Liberty. Free. (734) 929–9022 (Sun. & Tues.) & (734) 769–5016 (Wed.). fleetfeetsemichigan.com.*

★**"Investigate Labs": U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Tues.–Sun., except Dec. 24, 25, & 31, and Jan. 1.* All age 6 & up invited into the museum's Nature Lab and Micro Worlds Lab to use scientific tools and museum specimens to answer questions and solve problems. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478, ummnh.org.*

★**U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** *Dec. 2 & 9.* Talks by visiting scholars. *Dec. 2:* **"The Party's Interests Come First: The Life of Xi Zhongxun, Father of Xi Jinping."** Talk by American University international studies professor Joseph Torigan. *Dec. 9:* **"The Image of the Book in the Performance of Reading: The Drunken Man's Talk as a Charter Text."** University of Virginia Chinese studies professor Canaan Morse discusses oral storytelling in 13th-century imperial China. *Noon–1 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–6308.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Tues., Thurs., & Fri. through Dec. 23.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge (Tues. & Fri.) and a 499er game (Thurs.) for players with no more than 499 ACBL master points. *1–4 p.m. or so (arrive by 12:45 p.m.), City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. $9 per person. If you plan to come without a partner, email janeannarborcityclub@gmail.com.*

★**"Homo juluensis: A Pan-Eastern Asian Middle Pleistocene Hominin": U-M Center for Korean Studies Colloquium Series.** University of Hawai'i anthropology professor Christopher J. Bae discusses this recently discovered species of hominin found across East Asia. *4–5:30 p.m., Weiser Hall 10th fl., 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–1825.*

★**Letterpress Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Dec. 2, 7, & 17 (different times).* All adults invited to learn the basics of letterpress printing with movable type. *5–7 p.m. (Dec. 2 & 17) and 1–3 p.m. (Dec. 7). AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"2026 Tournament of Tomes Social Mixer": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults invited to learn about an upcoming AADL game in which teams read 10 preselected books, then compete against each other in a trivia tournament. *6–7 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Tour de Dirt": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tues.* 20- to 35-mile ride along Chelsea-area dirt roads. See aabts.org for weather cancellations or delays. *6:15 p.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike, 1101 Main, Chelsea. Free. For each week's route, email scimitargs@gmail.com.*

★**"Trivia with Terry!": Argus Farm Stop.** *Dec. 2 & 16.* All invited to form teams to answer wacky trivia questions from this longtime Aut Bar trivia night emcee. *6:30–8 p.m., Argus, 1200 Packard. Free; food & drink for sale. (734) 997–5448.*

"Ari's Best of 2025 Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Dec. 2 & 9.* Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products. This extremely popular annual event usually sells out. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Deli, 422 Detroit St. $75 in advance at zingermansdeli.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 663–3400.*

Tuesday English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues., except Dec. 30.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught and prompted; no partner or experience needed. Bring clean, flat, nonslip shoes and your own water bottle. First-timers asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Suggested donation: $8–$12 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with caregiver, free). (734) 665–7704, aactmad.org/english-country.*

★**Voices in Harmony.** Female singers invited to join a rehearsal of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile, Ypsi. Free to visitors (dues for those who join). (734) 765–3611, info@voicesinharmonychorus.org.*

★**"Alehouse Poets Open Reading": The Theater Shop.** All invited to read an original short poem, or a favorite by another writer. Listeners welcome. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. *7–8:30 p.m., Ypsi Alehouse, 124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/thetheatershop.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *Dec. 2 & 16.* Club members share their projected digital slides and prints on various topics, including this month's assignment, **"Abstracts."** The Dec. 16 meeting is the annual **holiday party** featuring a potluck dinner, photo exchange, & door prizes. Guests welcome; please arrive 15 minutes early. *7–9 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. a2camclub@gmail.com, annarborcameraclub.org.*

★**Crafty Hour: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Every Tues.* All invited to bring and work on their non-messy crafting projects (knitting, collage, etc.). *8–10 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. $1 off all 12-oz pours. (734) 548–9729.*

"Comedy Gauntlet": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Dec. 2, 9, & 16.* 90-second sets by each of 16 area stand-up comics. *8 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at crowdwork.com/e/comedy-gauntlet, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

3 WEDNESDAY

"A Life of Making Art": Ann Arbor City Club Lunch and Learn. Former U-M art professor **Mike Kapetan,** a nationally known sculptor, discusses his artistic process. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. $34 (members, $29) includes lunch; lecture only, $15. Preregistration required by noon on Nov. 28 by emailing stacy@annarborcityclub.org or calling (734) 662–3279.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Market & Shops.** *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 200 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Kids welcome. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.). Kerrytown Market. Free. ofglobal@aol.com.*

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Sept. 25–Dec. 21.* Rhiannon Ragland directs Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels' 2005 comedy about 2 very different sisters who get themselves into an outrageous pickle over an old high school boyfriend, a chaotic church social, and a secret family recipe for Christmas sausage. Adult language and subject matter. *3 p.m. (Wed., Thurs., & Sat.), 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.). Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $30–$50 in advance at purplerosetheatre.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. Discounts available. (734) 433–7673.*

"Adopt a Piece of History Tea": U-M Clements Library Tour. A chance to view items in the museum's collection that may be "adopted" through sponsorship ($50 & up to offset the cost of the items' purchase and conservation). Sponsors receive a virtual boilerplate posted on the museum's website acknowledging adoption of the item, along with a certificate. Curators on hand to answer questions. Tea, small sandwiches, and sweets served. *4–7 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. $50 (students, $25) admission in*

SEAN CARTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Kate Thomsen & Kristin Shields appear in Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels' 2005 comedy *Norma & Wanda*, at the Purple Rose Theatre through Dec. 21.

advance only at clements.umich.edu. (734) 649–3370.

★**"Jane Austen Retellings: A Literary Salon": U-M Library.** All invited to join a discussion of contemporary novels inspired by Jane Austen, including Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary,* Seth Grahame-Smith's *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, and Soniah Kamal's *Unmarriageable*. Also, a display of 19th-century editions of *Pride and Prejudice & Sense and Sensibility,* along with other Austen-related items from the Library's Special Collections Research Center. In honor of Austen's 250th birthday. *4–6 p.m., Hatcher Library, 6th fl., enter from the Diag. Preregistration requested at lib.umich.edu/events. Free. (734) 936–2309.*

★**"Writing Waterline: Patterns in Contemporary Armenian Diaspora Narratives": U-M Armenian Studies Department.** Local Armenian American writer Aram Mrjoian discusses his approach to writing about the experience of the Armenian diaspora, including his effort to challenge pressures from publishers to adhere to expected narrative patterns. *4–5:30 p.m., 555 Weiser Hall, 500 Church St. Free. (734) 764–035.*

★**"The Dayton Peace Accords on Bosnia at 30: Successes, Failures, and Challenges Ahead": U-M Donia Human Rights Center.** Panel discussion with Loyola University (Chicago) history professor Edin Hajdarpašic, Union University Belgrade law professor Tatjana Papic, and Democratization Policy Council senior associate Valery Perry. Moderated by Donia Center director Steven Ratner. *4–6 p.m., Michigan League, Michigan Rm. Free. (734) 615–8482.*

★**Board Game Night: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* All invited to play popular board games. Use provided games or bring your own. "Board Game Guru" on hand to answer questions. *5–10 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

★**Ypsi Fine Arts Club: Riverside Arts Center.** *Dec. 3 & 17.* Local artists show 1 or 2 pieces of their work, some of which may be for sale. If you'd like to show your own work, sign in by 6 p.m. Also, a **fine art raffle** ($5). *5–8 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free admission. riversidearts.org/events.*

★**Riso Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to use analog tools to create a 2-color design for a 2026 calendar and print it with the lab's Risograph duplicator, a kind of digital screen printer similar to a photocopier. *5–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"CommuniTEA Table": The Washtenaw Food Hub. *Every Wed. through Dec. 17.* Food- and agriculture-related discussions & demos, with tastings. *(Dec. 3):* **"Winter Composting."** Christopher Simmons shows how to prep nutrient-rich soil for spring. *(Dec. 10):* **"Easy Home Sprouting."** Cat Campion describes how to grow healthful, flavorful sprouts in days. *(Dec. 17):* **"Mead Making."** Ypsi brewer Rachel Kanaan on the basics of brewing honey wine. $5 at the door. *5–6 p.m., Washtenaw Food Hub, 4175 Whitmore Lake Rd. Free, except as noted. thewashtenawfoodhub.com.*

★**"Art and Community": EMU Visiting Artist Speaker Series.** Talk by DIA Contemporary Art associate curator Katie Pfohl on her curatorial philosophy, which seeks to foster connections between people and engage with urgent issues of our time. Followed by Q&A. *5–6 p.m., EMU Strong Hall Auditorium, W. Circle Dr., Ypsi. Free. (734) 487–1268, dbaskin@emich.edu.*

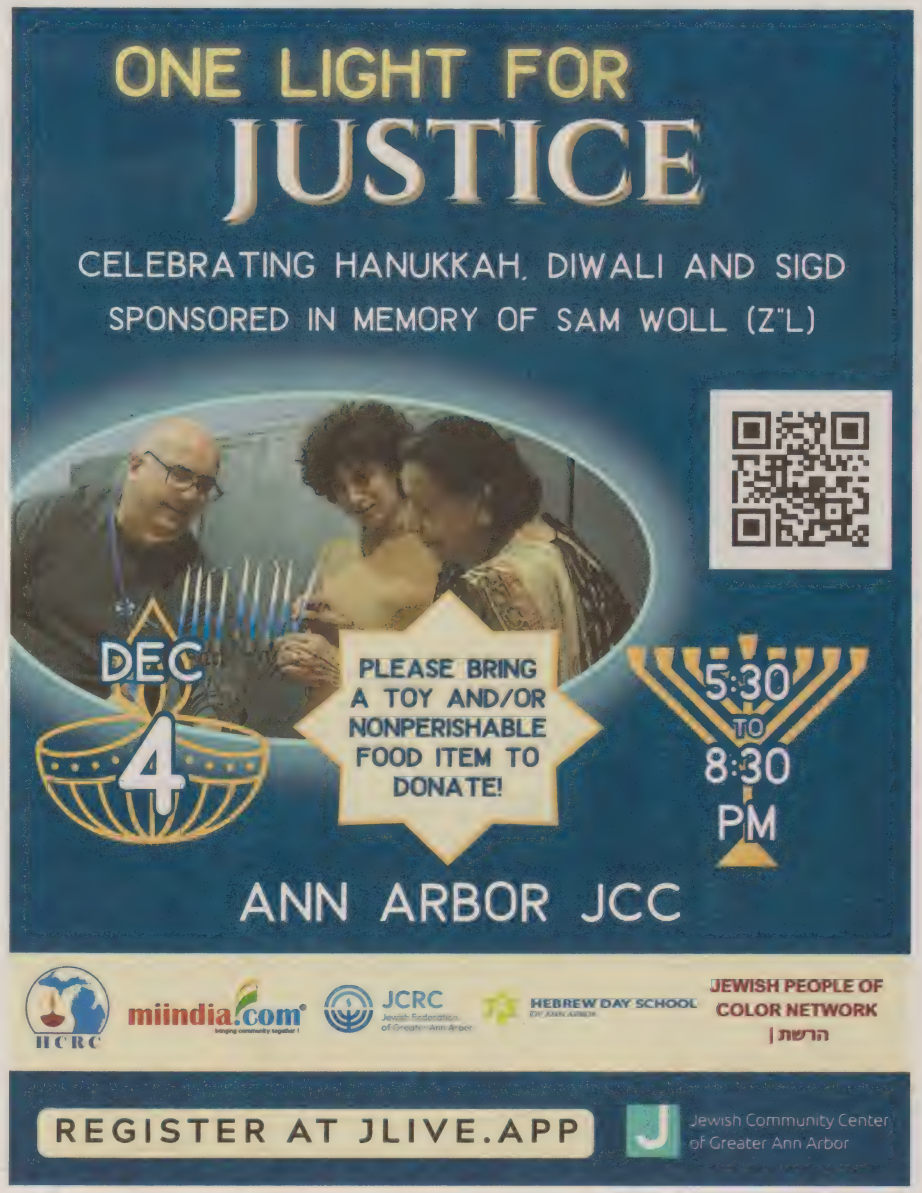
★**"Handmade Felt Food: Apples": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults to make colorful toy apples out of felt. This beginner-level craft involves sharp needles. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Folk Song Jam Along": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski lead this family-friendly sing-along of familiar folk and pop songs. Lyrics and chords projected. Musicians invited to bring their own acoustic instruments. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. folksongjamalong@gmail.com.*

Figure Drawing: Dzanc House. *Dec. 3 & 17.* All skill levels welcome to draw a live model. Bring your own art supplies. Light refreshments. Check website before coming to make sure the event is being held. *6:30–9 p.m., Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. $10 to pay model. Preregistration required at least 2 days in advance at dzanchouse.org/register-for-events.*

★**"Radical Unlearning: The Art and Science of Creating Change from Within": Literati Bookstore.** North Carolina–based journalist and transgender activist **Lewis Raven Wallace** discusses his new book about how to challenge deeply held beliefs and ideologies. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. (734) 585–5567.*

Christopher Mark Jones & Al Bettis: On The Tracks Songwriter Showcase. Double bill. Jones is a veteran Pittsburgh-based Americana singer-songwriter known for his soulful country- and blues-inflected songs about the strivings of common people. Bettis is a Detroit singer-songwriter who blends jazzy acoustic guitar with thoughtful, complex R&B lyrics. *7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St., Chelsea. $20*



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CHRISTMAS
CONCERTS @ FIRST PRES

Sun, December 14
The Glorious Sounds of Christmas
4:00 PM | SANCTUARY
Share the joy our festive Christmas concert featuring the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers, Sanctus Ringers, and Lemon Chapel Singers.
Following the concert, enjoy a strolling reception with live music, holiday treats, and a visit from Santa.

Wed, December 17
Paul Keller Jazz Concert with a Cause
7:00 PM | SANCTUARY
Enjoy an evening of jazz with Paul Keller and friends.
A love offering will benefit Garrett's Space, supporting mental health and suicide prevention for young adults.

First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
1432 WASHTENAW AVE.
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
fpca2.org

★ Denotes a free event

suggested donation. onthetracksss@gmail.com, onthetrackschelsea.com.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. CMU. The U-M also has home games this month against **Purdue** (Dec. 7, noon), **Akron** (Dec. 13, noon), & **Oakland** (Dec. 21, noon). *7 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets $8–$12 in advance at mgoblue.com and at the gate. (734) 764–0247.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* All invited to play friendly, competitive ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Arrive 20 minutes early if coming without a partner. Call before coming to check that the game is being held. *7–10:30 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline east of Maple. (Park in marked spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. (734) 945–6021.*

★**Afro-Cuban Drumming: U-M Residential College.** RC drumming students perform a variety of traditional Cuban *rumba* and *son cubano* pieces that they've been working on throughout the year. *7 p.m., East Quad Keene Theater, 701 East University. Free. (734) 647–4354.*

"Popstronauts in Space": Michigan Pops Orchestra. Nicholas Bromilow directs this playful 100-member ensemble, the only student-run orchestra on campus, in music from John Williams' *Star Wars* theme, Gustav Holst's *Mars*, and more. With vocalists TBA, stage antics, and special effects. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $9 (U-M students, $5; pre-K–12 students and seniors age 65 & over, free) in advance at mutotix.umich.edu and at the door. michiganpops.org.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring and established area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. On Dec. 3, attendees can mingle with the comics before they hit the stage during **"Comedy Nerdz Happy Hour"** (5:30–6:30 p.m.). *7:15 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 in advance at aacomedy.com; $6 at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"Wednesday Night Swing": Swing Ann Arbor. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* Lindy Hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Wear comfortable low-grip shoes. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. $5 (free for members) at the door. swingannarbor.com/calendar.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** The chance to see trains whizzing around on a big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. info@aamrc.org.*

"Fifty Years of Flight Before the Wright Brothers": Michigan Flight Museum (MFM) Historic Presentation Night. Greenfield Village historical presenter Kirk Haas discusses George Cayley, Otto Lilienthal, and other early aviation pioneers. *7:30–9 p.m., MFM, Willow Run Airport (off Ecorse from Beck Rd. via I-94 exit 190), Ypsi. $10. Preregistration recommended at miflightmuseum.org/events. (734) 483–4030.*

★**Depot Town Open Mic Comedy Night.** *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* Stand-up comedy open mic emceed by local comic Lisa Green. All age 18 & up welcome to listen, or sign up for a 5-minute set starting at 7 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., 734 Brewing Company, 15 E. Cross St., Ypsi. Free. (734) 340–3468.*

★**Campus Jazz Ensemble: U-M Music School.** Dennis Wilson directs this ensemble of nonmusic majors in a program of jazz standards and improvisations. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

4 THURSDAY

★**"Recrafting Closeness in Death: Relational Proxies for Future Japan/ese": U-M Center for Japanese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Duke University cultural anthropology professor Anne Allison discusses the recent rise in Japan of virtual companions and other stand-ins for social connection for aging single people. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 555 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–6307.*

★**"Division Street Pipes": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** U-M organ majors and faculty perform music TBA on the church's Richards, Fowkes & Co. organ. *12:15 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. (734) 663–0518, standrewsaa.org.*

★**"The Islamic Mary: Maryam Through the Centuries": U-M Global Islamic Studies Center.** Shenandoah University Islamic studies professor Younus Y. Mirza discusses his new book about references to the mother of Jesus in the Quran and other Islamic texts and artworks. *4–6 p.m., 555 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 615–9558.*

★**"Intuitive Art: Acrylic Paint": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to make images using acrylic paints. No experience needed. *5:30–7 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Introductory Woodcarving: Evergreen Trees": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to learn woodcarving basics, then carve a small tree to take home. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Brenda Hillman: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Reading by this California poet celebrated for her sensuous, adventurous verse that explores nature, politics, and spirituality. Her work is described by the Poetry Foundation as creating "its own

DOUG COOMBE

Local quintet Klezmephonic plays swing- and Roma-influenced klezmer music Dec. 4 at the Kerrytown Concert House.

experimental configuration, within which the phrase swerves and discombobulates sense." Q&A. Also, tomorrow Hillman gives a free **craft lecture** (10–11 a.m., Michigan Union Anderson Rm.). *5:30–6:30 p.m., UMMA Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. kimjulie@umich.edu.*

★**"One Light for Justice: Celebrating Hanukkah, Diwali, and Sigd": Jewish Community Center.** All invited to a joint Jewish and Hindu celebration of the winter holidays, including the Ethiopian Jewish holiday of Sigd. Traditional dances, crafts, candle lighting, dreidel games, and food. Bring a new toy and nonperishable food item to donate to Mott Children's Hospital and Food Gatherers. *5:30–8:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free, preregistration required at jlive.app/events/13169. (734) 971–0990.*

★**Bad Decisions Track Club.** *Every Thurs., except Dec. 25.* Runners of all abilities invited to join this eclectic group of runners ranging from people training for their first 5K to ultramarathoners. Sessions are typically interval-based track workouts, followed by socializing at a nearby brewery. *6 p.m. Ferry Field, State at Hoover. May meet elsewhere if the weather is bad. Free. See walline.wixsite.com/bdtc to sign up for email updates on each week's workout.*

★**"Repairsday Thursday": All Hands Active.** *Every Thurs., except Dec. 25.* All invited to drop in with broken electronics, furniture, toys, or any other item they'd like to try to repair or repurpose with the help and guidance of AHA members. Repairs not guaranteed. *6–8 p.m., AHA, basement of 255 E. Liberty, ste. 225. Livestream available at meetup.com/allhandsactive/events. Free; donations welcome. info@allhandsactive.org.*

★**"Persona: The Official Cookbook": Ann Arbor District Library Author Event.** Massachusetts-based food writer Jarrett Melendez discusses his new cookbook inspired by the *Persona* Japanese anime series. Signing. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Open Mic: Dzanc House.** All invited to share acoustic music, short stories, or poetry. Sign up on arrival. Check website before coming to make sure the event is being held. *6–8 p.m., Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. dzanchouse.org.*

"Euchre Change a Life!" *Dec. 4 & 18.* Five-game euchre tournament. Sign up with a partner, or get paired with one by the organizers. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Haitian children via Haitian Christian Outreach. *6:30–9 p.m., HOMES Campus, 112 Jackson Plz. $15 (HOMES community members, $10). euchrechangealife@gmail.com.*

★**"Khaled and Jamila": Literati Bookstore.** Dearborn-based Palestinian American writer Anan Ameri discusses her new novel, a multigenerational saga about a Palestinian family that moves to Michigan in the late 50s. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. (734) 585–5567.*

★**Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** All invited to bring rocks, minerals, or jewelry to show off. Silent auction. Refreshments. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. (734) 665–5574.*

★**Live Trivia: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Every Thurs., except Dec. 25.* Bløm staffers lead 2 rounds of trivia. Teams or single players welcome. Prizes. *7 & 8 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

★**"The Last Murder at the End of the World": Booksweet Bookshop Thursday Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to a discussion of Stuart Turton's 2024 mystery about a murder among a group of survivors living on an island following a global apocalypse. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

★**Detroit Irish Music Association Seisiún.** *Dec. 4 & 11.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *7–9 p.m., Grace Church, main building, 3150 Glazier Way. Free. contact@detroitirishmusic.org, detroitirishmusic.org.*

Annual Holiday Dance: Ann Arbor Ski Club. All invited to learn about the club's ski, snowboard, and snowshoe outings and other social activities. Followed by dancing to live music by **Ferrario,** a local pop, rock, and blues quintet fronted by vocalist Carrie Ferrario. Must be 21 or older. Festive attire encouraged. *7–10:30 p.m., UA Local 190 Hall, 7920 Jackson Rd. $20 (members, $5) at the door. a2skiclub@gmail.com.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Dec. 4–Jan. 11 (different times).* Daniel Cooney directs this local professional theater company in Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Robert Lopez, and Jennifer Lee's 2018 stage musical, itself based on the 2013 animated Disney movie, a loose adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen." It tells the story of Queen Elsa of Arendelle, whose self-seclusion in an ice palace prompts her younger sister Anna to attempt to find her, aided by a cast of characters including Olaf the snowman and Kristoff the ice vendor. The musical features numbers like "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" and "Let It Go." *7 p.m., Encore, 7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Tickets $44–$65 (17 and under $34) in advance at theencoretheatre.org & at the door. (734) 268–6200.*

"A Seussified Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. *Dec. 4–7.* Barbara Day directs local child and adult actors in Peter Bloedel's archly comic 2011 play, which renders the classic Dickens Christmas story in rhymed couplets, à la Dr. Seuss. Several Seussian characters, like Bed-Headed Fred and Timmy Loo Hoo, even show up, as does Santa, at the very end of the show. *7 p.m. (Thurs. & Fri.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), The Well Church, 211 Willis Rd., Saline. The venue has some stairs. $15 ($12, seniors and kids 17 & under) in advance at our.show/sapaseussifiedchristmascarol or at the door. president@salineareaplayers.org, salineareaplayers.com.*

"Draft Line Improv": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Long-form pieces performed by improv students. *7–8 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $7.50 in advance at heardotsay.com/events and (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

Bo Johnson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 4–6.* Seattle-based comic whose warm monotone belies a sardonic, self-deprecating sense of humor. Postings on Johnson's popular TikTok account have gone viral several times, leading to widespread media coverage. Preceded by opening acts TBA. Alcohol served. *7:15 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $21 (Thurs., $16) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Dec. 4 & 11.* Popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team of up to 6 people. Prizes. *7:30 p.m. or so, Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee that goes to the winning team. (734) 665–2968, tinyurl.com/a2pubquiz.*

★**Winter Concert: Pioneer High School Orchestras.** Jonathan Glawe & Reid Smith direct ensembles of student orchestra musicians in various combinations in music by Brahms, Wagner, 19th-century French composer Louise Farrenc, 20th-century American composer Leroy Anderson, contemporary Mexican composer Arturo Marquez, and contemporary Korean American composer Soon Hee Newbold. *7:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium. Free. (734) 994–2189, ext. 3.*

Klezmephonic: Kerrytown Concert House. This classy local quintet plays swing- and Roma-influenced klezmer music, including rollicking freylakhs, soulful khosidls, and other works representative of the rich musical traditions of Eastern Europe. With bassist Dave Sharp, vocalist-accordionist Jennifer Goltz,

★ *Denotes a free event*

clarinetist Eric Schweizer, violinist Henrik Karapetyan, and percussionist Mike List. *7:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $30–$40 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M Music School.** These 2 music major ensembles perform a program of big band standards and contemporary jazz. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

"The Gondoliers": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. *Dec. 4–7.* This accomplished town-and-gown company performs Gilbert & Sullivan's 1889 comic operetta about 2 handsome gondoliers whose romances with Venetian peasant girls are interrupted when a misunderstanding makes them kings for a day. Accidental bigamy, an arranged royal marriage, and switched-at-birth babies add twists to the lighthearted musical satire. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $30 (seniors, $27; students with ID, $10) in advance at the Michigan League Ticket Office, muto.umich.edu, and at the door. (734) 763–8587.*

"The Thanksgiving Play": Penny Seats Theatre Company. *Every Thurs.–Sun., except Nov. 27, Nov. 21–Dec. 7.* Kelley Rawls directs local actors in Larissa FastHorse's 2018 satirical comedy about a troupe of terminally woke theater artists who scramble to create a grade school pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage Month. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat., except Dec. 5), 10 p.m. (Fri., Dec. 5), and 2 p.m. (Sun.), Cahoots, 206 E. Huron St. Tickets $20 (seniors, $18; students, $15; kids 12 & under, $14) in advance at pennyseats.org and (if available) at the door. (734) 926–5346, thepennyseats@gmail.com.*

★**"Say What?" Comedy Open Mic: Hear. Say Brewing + Theater.** *Every Thurs., except Dec. 25.* Stand-up comedy open mic hosted by local comics Ned Rice and Jeff Teed. All age 18 & up welcome to listen or sign up for a 6-minute set starting at *7:30 p.m. 8–10 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. Free, but preregistration advised at heardotsay.com/events. hello@heardotsay.com.*

5 FRIDAY

★**Lane 9 Women's Running Group.** *Every Fri.* All men & women invited to join this women-focused running group on a 3-mile loop run. All paces (including walking) welcome. 6:45 a.m., meet outside Argus Farm Stop, 1600 Packard. *Free, preregistration required by emailing lane9project@gmail.com. lane9project.org.*

★**"Wolverine Open": U-M Adaptive Sports & Fitness.** *Dec. 5–7.* All invited to watch top collegiate wheelchair tennis players from across the country compete in this annual Intercollegiate Tennis Association event. Michigan and national title holder Alabama are considered the top two teams in the country right now. *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 9 a.m.–2 p.m. (Sun). U-M Varsity Tennis Center, 2250 S. State St. Free. umadaptivesports.com.*

★**"Beatmaking in Fruity Loops and Logic": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M musicology professor Gustavo Souza Marques discusses the basics of beatmaking in Fruity Loops Studio and Logic Pro. *11 a.m.–noon, AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Christmas Organ Music from Germany & France": First Baptist Church Ad Libitum Concert Series.** The church's organist Shin-Ae Chun performs a program of Christmas music by J.S. Bach, his father-in-law Johann Michael Bach, Buxtehude, Dupré, and others. Followed by refreshments. *Noon, First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington (handicap access on Washington entrance). Free. (734) 663–9376, fbca2.org.*

U-M Museum of Natural History Planetarium & Dome Theater. *Every Fri.–Sun.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows suitable for all ages, including ***We Are Stars*** (noon), an exploration of the secrets of our cosmic chemistry and our explosive origins; ***The Sky Tonight*** (1 & 3 p.m.), an exploration of the current night sky, with tips on how to find the cardinal directions, constellations, and planets on your own; and ***T. Rex*** (2 p.m.), an exploration of the iconic dinosaur's scientific and cinematic history that contains scenes of dinosaur violence. *Noon, 1, 2, & 3 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. $8 at the gift shop. Limited capacity. (734) 764–0480, ummnh.org.*

★**"How Ethnic Rebellion Begins: Theory and Evidence from Myanmar": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by University of Georgia international affairs professor Jangai Jap. *Noon–1 p.m., 555 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–0351.*

★**"Force Majeure: The See-Through Plantation": U-M Anthropology Department Roy A. Rappaport Lecture.** U-M anthropology professor Alyssa Paredes discusses how Philippine banana plantation owners elude responsibility for the damage they do to the environment and local communities. *Fourth in Bananapocalypse: Un/Making Plantation Capitalism,* a series of 4 monthly lectures on the existential crises that hang over the banana-growing regions of the Southern Philippines. *3–4:30 p.m., 411 West Hall, 1085 South University. Free. (734) 764–7274.*

★**"Glow-In-the-Dark Magic Wands": Ann Arbor Art Center.** All invited to drop in to make magic wands from provided supplies. *5–10 p.m. (or until supplies run out), A2AC, 117 W. Liberty St. Free. annarborartcenter.org.*

★**Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** *Dec. 5 & 6.* A variety of activities, including all month long, **gingerbread house displays** in downtown Chelsea shop windows, with a creative **light pole decoration** contest downtown, and sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores. **Santa's mailbox** is accepting letters (postage to the North Pole courtesy of the CACC) Nov. 28–Dec. 14, at Palmer Commons (302 S. Main); include a return address to receive a response from Santa. For a full list of events, see chelseamich.com/hometown-holiday. *Dec. 5:* **Tree lighting ceremony & Santa's arrival** (5–6:30 p.m., Pierce Park, 851 S. Main) with hot chocolate and kids activities. *Dec. 6:* A **light parade** (6 p.m., along Main St.) featuring dozens of lighted floats and vehicles, marching bands, Santa, and more. Also, a **Holiday Home Tour** (see 6 Sat. listing) by the Chelsea Area Historical Society. *Various times. Downtown Chelsea. Free. (734) 475–1145, chelseamich.com.*

KindleFest: Kerrytown District Association. Holiday festival with over 50 vendors, traditional German food, and food trucks. Kids events include balloon animals, crafts, and visits with Santa (5–7 p.m.). Live music begins with the **Pioneer High School Choir** and caroling (7–10 p.m.), followed by the **Ann Arbor Concert Band Brass Choir** (8 p.m.) and the **EMU Low Brass Band** (9 p.m.). Beer & German Glühwein (mulled wine) made by TeaHaus for sale. Many Kerrytown district businesses open until 11 p.m. with holiday bargains. *5–10 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. (734) 662–5008.*

★**"Midnight Madness": Main Street Area Association.** With appearances by **Santa** (7–9 p.m.) and community carolers, a silent disco, and more. Also, **Santa's Mailbox** is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA), Nov. 28–Dec. 14, in front of Conor O'Neill's (318 S. Main); include a return address to receive a response from Santa. *5 p.m.–midnight, Main St. shopping areas (many stores along Main St., as well as the State St. & Fourth Ave. areas and Kerrytown, stay open till midnight). Free admission. (734) 668–7112, mainstreetannarbor.org/midnight-madness.*

★**"Christmas in the Village": Manchester Chamber of Commerce.** *Dec. 5 & 6.* This annual holiday festival features **Santa visits** for kids, hot chocolate, and discounts from local businesses. The festival kicks off Friday with a **parade** that brings Santa down Main St. to the mill where he lights the Christmas tree, and the all-day Saturday program features **craft shows** at local churches, **hayrides, kids crafts,** a **scavenger hunt,** and more. *5:30 p.m. until later (Fri.) & 9 a.m.–8 p.m. (Sat.), Downtown Manchester. Free admission. (734) 476–4565.*

D&D Adventurers League: Sylvan Factory. *Every Fri.* All invited to play the current official campaign of the popular Dungeons & Dragons tabletop role-playing game, using 5th-edition rules. Kids under 13 must have parent or guardian accompaniment. *6–10 p.m., Sylvan Factory, 2459 W. Stadium. $10. Space limited, preregistration strongly recommended at sylvanfactory.com/events, (734) 929–5877.*

★**"Petal Fold Book": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to use origami-style folds to turn a sheet of paper into a colorful, sculptural book. This project takes the entire time to complete. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program Rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Machines Making Music?": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M performing arts technology grad student Molly Jones discusses how artificial intelligence (AI) programs can be used to compose music, and plays examples of the latest AI-generated songs. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Light Up Dexter": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** Santa leads a countdown to light up a large community Christmas tree in Monument Park promptly at 6 p.m. Photos with Santa, balloon animals, kids crafts, craft vendors, and free hot chocolate and cookies. *6 p.m., Monument Park gazebo, downtown Dexter. Free. (734) 325–4030, dexterchamber.org.*

"Matilda": Professional Youth Theatre of Michigan. *Dec. 5–14.* Megan Wright-Jones directs 3 casts of local youth actors in grades 2–12 in a 1-hour version of Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin's 2011 musical. The story, based on Roald Dahl's children's novel, centers on a precocious 5-year-old girl with the gift of telekinesis who loves reading. *New York Times* theater critic Ben Brantley called the original Broadway production "a sweet and sharp-witted work." *6 & 8 p.m. (Dec. 5),*

seniors

★**Activities: Ann Arbor Senior Center,** 1320 Baldwin, a2gov.org/senior. Weekly activities. Preregistration required (if specified) by calling (734) 794–6250 or emailing bpatton@a2gov.org. **Mind Matters Brain Games** (Dec. 8, 10, & 17, 10 a.m.) & **Trivia** (Dec. 3 & 17, 1–2 p.m.) over Zoom at a2gov.org/senior. **Scrabble** (Wed. 1:30–3 p.m., except Dec. 24). $2; members, free. **Senior Mall Walks** (Fri. 10–11 a.m., except Dec. 26 and Jan. 2). Guided one-mile walks through Briarwood Mall. $2; members, free. Preregistration required.

★**Talks & Events: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** 1320 Baldwin Ave. Senior-focused talks. Free. Preregistration required for all talks and meetings by calling (734) 794–6250, emailing bpatton@a2gov.org, or going to a2gov.org/senior. *Dec. 3 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Lunch & Learn: Introduction to Diabetes."** With a FOX Rehabilitation representative. Free light lunch. *Dec. 4 (1:30–4 p.m.):* **"Travels with George: Northern Spain & Southern France."** Slideshow and talk. *Dec. 8 (10 a.m.–noon):* **"White Chicken Chili & Cornbread."** Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation environmental educator Eleva Potter leads attendees in making and eating chili and cornbread together. Supplies provided. *Dec. 11 (1–3 p.m.):* **"Pet Portraits."** Eleva Potter (see above) shows how to create a pet portrait using Pan Pastels. Participants asked to come with an 8 x 11 color printout of a pet. Supplies provided. *Dec. 12 (10 a.m.–noon):* **"Santa Lucia Day."** Eleva Potter shares about this Scandinavian holiday and leads the making of *Lussekatter* (traditional saffron buns). Supplies provided. *Dec. 16 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Lunch & Learn: Chronic Pain & Treatment Options."** With pain management physician Louis Bojrab and a free light lunch. *Dec. 19 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Data Breaches and You."** With James Giordani from AsKevin.

★**Activities: Pittsfield Township Senior Center.** 701 W. Ellsworth. Free, except as noted. No events Dec. 22–31. Preregistration required for all events at (734) 822–2120 or recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov. **Rise & Shine** (Mon. & Fri. 9–10 a.m.). Morning exercise. **Creative Writers** (Mon. 10 a.m.). Bring current project; no instruction given. **Ukulele Practice** (Mon. 10:30–11:30 a.m.). No instruction given. **American mah-jongg** (Mon. 1–3 p.m., and Tues. 10–11:45 a.m.). All levels welcome. **Euchre** (Tues. 1–3 p.m. except Dec. 23 & 30). **Watercolor & Painting** (Wed. 10–11:30 a.m.). Bring current project and supplies; no instruction given. **Bingo** (Wed. 1–3 p.m.,). **Computer Help** (Thurs. 9–11:45 a.m. in 15-minute slots). With Jack Spence. **Men's Group** (Thurs. 2–4 p.m.). Discussion group. **Crafting Crew** (Dec. 12 & 19, 10–11:30 a.m.). Bring your current project, no instruction given. **Chinese mah-jongg** (Dec. 12 & 19, 1–3 p.m.). **Living Solo Social Group** (Dec. 1, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.). Socializing for seniors living alone; not a support group. **Book Club** (Dec. 3, 10:30–noon).

★**Talks & Events: Pittsfield Township Senior Center.** 701 W. Ellsworth. Free. Preregistration required for all events at (734) 822–2120 or recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov. *Dec. 8 (3:10–4:10 p.m.):* **"Tech Townhall."** Tech help from Saline High School students. Bring your device. *Dec. 19 (11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.):* **"Holiday Cookie Exchange"** Bring 3 dozen cookies to exchange.

★**Activities: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program,** 2401 Plymouth Rd. Weekly activities. Free, except as noted. No events Dec. 24–Jan. 2. Preregistration required for some events. For Zoom links see calendar at tinyurl.com/turner-snr-calendar. (734) 998–9353, tswp.info@umich.edu, michmed.org/tswp. **Tai Chi** (Mon., Wed., & Fri. noon–12:30 p.m. via Zoom). **Walking Off the Pounds** (Mon., Wed., & Fri. 12:30–1 p.m. via Zoom). **Euchre** (Mon. 1–3 p.m.). **Mindfulness Meditation** (Tues. 10–11:30 a.m.). Some experience required. **Bridge** (Tues. & Fri. 1–4 p.m.). Call if interested. **Una Tertulia** (Dec. 4 & 18, 3:15–5 p.m.). For native Spanish speakers. **LGBTQ+ Coffee & Chat** (Dec. 10, noon–2 p.m.; preregistration required). **Open Chinese mah-jongg** (Thurs. 10 a.m.–noon). **Wise Guys: Conversations for Men** (Thurs. 2–3:30 p.m. via Zoom).

★**Talks & Events: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program,** 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/turner-snr-calendar. (734) 998–9353, tswp.info@umich.edu, michmed.org/tswp. *Dec. 3 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Pollen Sensitivity and Health Risks in Older Adults."** With U-M epidemiologist Peter S. Larson. *Dec. 10 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Tips to Managing Your Emotional Health & Well-Being."** With U-M geriatric clinical social worker Leslie Dubin.

noon; 2, 6, & 8 p.m. (Dec. 6); noon & 2 p.m. (Dec. 7); 7 p.m. (Dec. 12); 2 & 7 p.m. (Dec. 13); and noon (Dec. 14). Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Tickets $20 in advance at pytmi.square.site & (if available) at the door. (734) 660–2966, pytmi.com.

"Christmas at the Mansion": Dexter Area Historical Society. *Dec. 5–7, 12, 14.* Seasonal events at lavishly decorated Gordon Hall, the 19th-century mansion built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter. *Dec. 5:* **"Timeless Toys and Traditions"** (6:30 p.m.), a Gordon Hall fundraiser featuring strolling hors d'oeuvres, spirits, desserts, and display of the Christmas Village Collection, Milt Campbell's huge assemblage of the collectible holiday buildings and figures, on display for the final time. $80 per attendee, preregistration required. *Dec. 6:* **Santa** (10 a.m.–3 p.m.) is on hand to visit with kids, who also can **make their own gingerbread house** (9 a.m.–5 p.m.). $5 suggested donation. *Dec. 7:* **Christmas Tea** (1 & 4 p.m.), a light lunch with tea sandwiches and desserts. Space limited, preregistration required. $30 per person (kids age 12 & under, $15). *Dec. 12 & 14:* **Open house** (6–8 p.m.) to view the Christmas Village Collection. $5 suggested donation. *Various times, Gordon Hall, 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. Various costs. (734) 395–4106, dexterhistory.org.*

Spirit Sing: Michigan Friends Center. Local musicians lead participants in "spirit singing," a blend of familiar songs, trance chant, and improvisation. *6:30–8 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clark Lake Rd. (off Waterloo west of M-52), Chelsea. $5–$10 suggested donation. mfcenter.org.*

First Friday Shabbat: Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner from a local restaurant, preceded by a brief secular Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, and challah & wine rituals. Kids welcome. *6:30–8 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow. $10 (families, $25) for nonmembers; members, free. Preregistration required at jewishculturalsociety.org.*

★**"Echoes of the Islands: A Caribbean Cultural Showcase": U-M Caribbean Student Association.** An evening of Caribbean dancing and music by U-M students. *6:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. $13–$18 in advance at marquee-arts.org/live-events.*

"Adult Open Hours & Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy. *1st & 3rd Fri. and every Sat. & Sun.* During the **Friday Adult Open Hours** (age 18+ only), conservancy staffers show off some nocturnal animals, including a reindeer, **Dumeril's boa, African-crested porcupine,** and **wolf hybrid** at 7:30 p.m. On Sat. and Sun., the first three animals are presented at 1 & 4 p.m., and an animal keeper talks about the wolf hybrid at 2 & 3 p.m. All tickets include a chance to see the conservancy's other animals. *7–9 p.m. (Fri.) & noon–5 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), CC, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15 (kids ages 2–12, $13; under age 2, free) cash or credit at the door only. (734) 929–9324, thecreatureconservancy.org.*

"Carnival of the Animals": EMU Music & Dance Department. EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome-Wilkinson directs EMU dance students in a ballet choreographed to Saint-Saëns' famous musical suite of 14 movements, including "The Swan." The score is performed live by the EMU Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Chad Hutchinson. *7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsi. Tickets $8 (students, & kids ages 6–17, $5; children under 5, free) in advance only at emich.ludus.com. (734) 487–2849, sjerome@emich.edu.*

★**The Big Band Theory.** Dancing to jazz and swing music, with holiday favorites, performed by this 15-piece ensemble. Vocals by members of the Andrews Sisters tribute band the ABC Sisters, Chelsea jazz vocalist David Bloom, singer Caitlin Burr, Saline singer-pianist Jean Wilson, and others. Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. Free.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"A Seussified Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Descendants: The Musical": Saline Varsity Blues. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Performers ages 7–18 present the 2015 Disney musical about the adventures of the teenage children of the Disney villains Maleficent, the Evil Queen, Jafar, and Cruella De Vil, after they venture off their home Isle of the Lost. Music by Madeline Smith & Matthew Tishler. Book and lyrics by Nick Blaemire. *7 p.m., Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $15 in advance at varsitybluesperformingarts.com and at the door.*

★**"Ride the Cyclone": U-M Basement Arts.** *Dec. 5 & 6.* Logan Dilley directs fellow U-M students in Jacob Richmond & Brooke Maxwell's 2009 dark musical comedy about 6 teenage boys who are killed in a freak roller coaster accident. When they awake in limbo, they are met by a mechanical fortune teller who invites each to tell a story to win a chance at returning to life. *7 & 11 p.m. (Fri.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Newman Studio, 1226 Murfin. Free. umichbasementarts.com.*

"Oklahoma!": Golden Theatre Company. *Dec. 5–7.* This U-M student musical theater troupe performs the landmark 1943 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, a sentimental love story set in Oklahoma Territory on the eve of statehood. The show's many well-known songs include "I'm Just a Girl Who Can't Say No," "People Will Say We're in Love," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top," and the rousing title chorus. The production incorporates many of the introspective elements of the show's acclaimed 2019 Broadway revival, an "Oklahoma! for an era in which longstanding American legacies are being examined with newly skeptical eyes," according to *New York Times* theater critic Ben Brantley. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 2 p.m. (Sun.), Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $20 (students, $17) in advance at muto.umich.edu & at the door. (734) 763–1107, goldentheatrecompany@umich.edu.*

Bo Johnson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

"The rePercussions": U-M Groove Performance Group. High-energy performance by this popular U-M student percussion ensemble, which uses both traditional and nontraditional instruments (buckets, trash cans, water barrels, ladders, and more). *7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $10 (students, $5) in advance at mutotix.umich.edu, and (if available) at the door. groove.info@umich.edu.*

★**"The Tragedy of Carmen": U-M Chamber Opera.** *Dec. 5 & 6.* Timothy Cheek directs U-M opera students in Peter Brook's stripped-down 80-minute 1983 adaptation of the popular Bizet opera, a melodrama about a hot-blooded femme fatale who ruins a weak-willed soldier. Brook's raw, theatrical version retains the essence of the original while heightening its passionate intensity, though at the expense of some of the original's musicality. The stripped-down adaptation retains the most popular gems of Bizet's famous score but cuts down the cast to 4 main characters, eliminates the choruses, and reworks the score for chamber orchestra. French, English supertitles. *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

"A Man for Christmas": Neighborhood Theatre Group. *Dec. 5–7 & 11–14.* NTG founder Kristin Ann Danko directs local actors in her 2019 Hallmark Christmas musical parody, cowritten with local playwright A.M. Dean. It's about a single woman, about to turn 30, returning home for the holidays to celebrate the engagements of both her sister and her dad. If she can win the affections of a local lad and make it into a triple engagement, she'll have herself a Christmas for the books. For mature audiences. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), The Back Office Studio, 13 N. Washington St., Ypsi. Tickets $20 (students, $12) in advance at ticketstripe.com/manforchristmas and (if available) at the door.*

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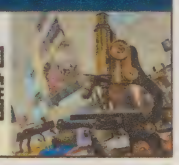

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY
KIDS' AWARDS CELEBRATION Saturday, April 18
KIDS' SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST
grades 3-5 January 5-February 1
guidelines available at aadl.org/kidswrite
TEEN WRITING CONTEST
TEEN CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED Saturday, May 16
grades 6-12 January 5-March 1
short story • poetry • flash fiction
guidelines available at aadl.org/teenswrite

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"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. *Every Fri.–Sun., Dec. 5–Jan. 4.* Mike Sandusky directs Carla Milarch and R. MacKenzie Lewis's latest seasonal panto comedy, a hip-hop version of the English folktale of Dick Whittington. Loosely based on a lord mayor of London in the late Middle Ages, Whittington rises from poverty to wealth by selling his cat to a rat-infested town. British panto is a genre that blends familiar children's stories with a bit of vaudeville to create a raucous family entertainment. Theatre Nova's panto, a popular annual tradition, usually sells out. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St. Tickets $32 ($25, seniors; $15, students; $12, age 16 and under) in advance at theatrenova.org & at the door. (734) 635–8450.*

Friday Night Improv: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Every Fri.* Performance by **Eleven Non-Blondes,** a house team of experienced improvisers. *7:30–9 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

★**"That's a Choice Comedy Showcase": Water Tower Distilling Co.** Performances by 8–10 regional comics. Emcee is local actress & comic Alice Duhon. Age 21 & up only. *7:30 p.m., WTDC, 23 N. Washington St., Ypsi. Free. instagram.com/thatsachoicecomedy.*

"The Gondoliers": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 4 Thurs. 8 p.m.

★**"Astronomy Night": U-M Detroit Observatory.** *Dec. 5 & 12.* A chance to see antique telescopes, hear presentations on astronomical phenomena, and (weather permitting) observe the night sky through the observatory's historic Fitz telescope. On Dec. 5, 1-hour guided tours (preregistration required) begin at 8, 8:30, 9, & 9:30 p.m. *8–10:30 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. Space limited; preregistration requested at detroitobservatory.umich.edu. (734) 764–3482.*

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Riverside Swings: Riverside Arts Center. *Every Fri.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner or experience required. Wear comfortable low-grip/tread shoes. Preceded at 7 and 8 p.m. by hour-long lessons. Followed by a "late night blues-&-fusion" dance. The 1st Friday of each month is free, and the 3rd Fridays include a Charleston lesson. *9–11 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. $5 (students, $4). riversidearts.org/riverside-swings.*

"Turtle Cat Comedy": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Local and visiting stand-up comics TBA. *9:30–10:45 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

"The Thanksgiving Play": Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 10 p.m.

6 SATURDAY

★**parkrun USA.** *Every Sat.* All invited to join a timed but noncompetitive 5K run/walk. *9 a.m., Lillie Park South at the northeast corner of the soccer fields, 4365 Platt. Free, but first-timers requested to preregister at parkrun.us/lillie and arrive at 8:45 a.m. lillie@parkrun.com, facebook.com/lillieparkrun.*

★**Candidate Forum: The Washtenaw County Democratic Party.** Discussion with Democratic candidates for state Attorney General: former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan **Mark Totten** and prosecuting attorneys **Karen McDonald** of Oakland County and **Eli Savit** of Washtenaw County. Q&A. *9:15 a.m.–noon, Washtenaw County Learning Resources Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave. and on Zoom; URL at washtenawdems.org/calendar. Free.*

★**"Morning Music @9:29": Northside Community Church.** *Dec. 6 & 20.* Local pianist-organist Kathryn Goodson is joined by U-M music students in performances of classical music programs TBA. Coffee & refreshments. *9:29 a.m., NCC, 929 Barton Dr. Free. kgoodson@umich.edu.*

★**"Women in the Woods": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Women age 18 & up invited to take a 2-mile hike through the Dolph Nature Area together. Bring water, sunscreen, snacks. *10–11:30 a.m., meet at the parking lot for Dolph Nature Area of Wagner. Free. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec. (734) 476–7612, epotter@a2gov.org.*

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Farm Museum. *Dec. 6 & 7.* This German immigrant pioneer homestead recreates the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas as costumed guides lead tours of the brick farmhouse, 1840s log house, and outbuildings. Also, carolers and live music, and craft & cooking demos. Sale of baked goods and handcrafted gifts. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Waterloo Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Grass Lake. $5 (seniors, $4; kids ages 5–12, $2; age 4 & under & members, free) in advance at waterloofarmmuseum.org and at the door. (517) 596–2254.*

★**Open Stitching: Embroiderers' Guild of America.** *Dec. 6 & 18.* Stitchers of all abilities and interests invited to socialize and work on their own projects. *10 a.m.–noon, West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. (Dec. 6) & Panera Bread, 903 W. Eisenhower (Dec. 18). Free. ega.annarborchapter@gmail.com.*

★**Fiber Arts Drop-In: Riverside Arts Center.** All invited to work on their sewing projects. Basic supplies and knowledgeable staff available. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free; donations welcome. riversidearts.org/events.*

★**"30 Years of SMP!": U-M Physics Department Saturday Morning Physics.** U-M physics demonstration lab technicians lead hands-on family-friendly physics demonstrations and discuss the history of this popular series of talks aimed at general audiences. *10:30–11:30 a.m., 170 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Also via livestream; see saturdaymorningphysics.org. Free. (734) 764–4437.*

"Holiday Hustle": Running Fit Events. Competitive half-marathon, with a 4-hour time limit, beginning and ending at Erratic Ale and going out the B2B Trail through Hudson Mills and back. Awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories. Followed by a 1-mile fun run (4 p.m.) and a 5K competitive race (4:30 p.m.), both beginning at Monument Park and taking in neighborhood light displays. *11 a.m., Erratic Ale, 8080 Grand St., ste. 3, Dexter. Half marathon: $75. 5K: $39. 1-mile fun run: $19. Snowman challenge (all three runs): $94. Register online at runholiday5k.com, in person at Fleet Feet, 5700 Jackson Rd., & (if available) on race day at Monument Park with a $6–$16 increase. (734) 929–9027.*

★**"BIPOC Friendly Hike": Shades of the Outdoors.** An opportunity for people from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) communities and their allies to hike about 1.5 miles together. *11 a.m., County Farm Park, 2230 Platt. Free. shadesoftheoutdoors.org.*

"Carols & Croissants": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition, this year featuring an ensemble of 11 singers from the **Mariners' Church of Detroit choir,** led by pianist and choir director Kevin Bylsma, who perform holiday solo and choral works and lead an audience sing-along. Followed by croissants, coffee, & conversation with the artists. Note: The members of Today's Brass Quintet, which hosted this event for decades, have decided to retire this year. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $30–$45 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

Critter House Open Hours: Leslie Science & Nature Center. *Every Sat. & Sun.* A chance to view LSNC birds of prey and its Critter House

COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

The 146th annual *Messiah* performance by the University Choral Union and the University Musical Society fills Hill Auditorium Dec. 6 & 7.

animals, which include frogs, turtles, snakes, and other species native to Michigan. *Noon–3 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver. $5 suggested donation. (734) 997–1553, lesliesnc.org.*

★**"Scientist Spotlight": U-M Museum of Natural History.** A chance for adults and kids age 10 & up to engage in interactive science activities with U-M scientists. *Noon–3 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478.*

★**Drop-In Euchre Open Play: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to drop in and play casual euchre. Come with a partner, or get paired up with one. Printed rules provided. *Noon–2 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Matilda": Professional Youth Theatre of Michigan. See 5 Friday. Noon, 2, 6, & 8 p.m.

Holiday Home Tour: Chelsea Area Historical Society Fundraiser. Self-guided walkable tour of 6 historic Chelsea homes decorated for the holidays. Society members and homeowners are stationed at each house to discuss its history. *1–4 p.m., start from Chelsea Area Historical Museum, 128 Jackson, Chelsea. Tickets $25 (members, $20) in advance at tinyurl.com/chelsea-hh-2025, Chelsea Pharmacy (1125 S. Main), & the Garden Mill (110 S. Main), and at the door.*

★**Washtenaw Area Pick-Up Robotics Championship: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance to watch high school robotics teams pit their robots against each other in fast, fun 2-on-2 matches. Finals begin at 5 p.m. Also, robot-themed craft activities for kids and a chance to meet the teams to find out more about the local competitive robotics scene. *2–5 p.m., AADL Warehouse, 265 Parkland Plz. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Drop-In Improv Games: Ypsi Improv. Every Sat. All age 16 & up invited to learn about and participate in improv games in a fun, relaxed, and judgment-free setting. No experience necessary. *2–4 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Tickets $8–$10 (spectators, free) in advance via PayPal or Venmo linked from meetup.com/ypsi-improv, and in cash at the door.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"A Seussified Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance.** *Dec. 6 & 20.* Jam session open to all musicians interested in working on jigs, reels, and waltzes to have fun, learn tunes, and develop contra dance music skills. All instruments welcome. Bring the *Ruffwater Fakebook*, the *Portland Collection,* and the *Waltz Books* if you have them. *3–5 p.m., Pittsfield Union Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Mask optional (see policy at aactmad.org). Free. (734) 709–8748.*

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Rutgers. The U-M also plays home games this month vs. **Villanova** (Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.), **La Salle** (Dec. 21, 4 p.m.), & **McNeese St.** (Dec. 29, 7 p.m.). *4 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets from $15 in advance at mgoblue.com and at the gate. (734) 764–0247.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. MSU. *Sold out.* The U-M team, ranked 2nd nationally as of mid-November, faces off against the top-ranked team. *7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. (734) 764–0247.*

★**50th Annual Holiday Parade: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** Starting at Davenport St. and E. Michigan Ave., the parade features floats, bands, baton twirlers, dancers, a hot air balloon, and Santa in his sleigh, and it is followed by **photos with Santa** (7–8 p.m., 106 W. Michigan). Also, earlier today, a **cocoa crawl** (noon–6 p.m.) with free samples of hot cocoa and chocolate treats along Main St., the **Christmas tree lighting** (5 p.m. at the corner of Michigan Ave. and N. Ann Arbor St.), and a **one-mile race** (5:30 p.m., $25 & up; preregistration required at tinyurl.com/saline-merry-mile-2025). *6 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. (734) 429–4494, salinechamber.org.*

★**Dexter Light Parade: Dexter Chamber of Commerce.** Dozens of lighted floats and vehicles, Santa, and more. *6 p.m., Main St., Downtown Dexter. Free. dexterchamber.org.*

★**Open Studios: U-M Stamps School of Art & Design.** Fourteen Stamps MFA students and 25 faculty members open their studio doors to show art and discuss their practice. Also, video screenings, art performances, and music TBA. Beverages and snacks. *6–8:30 p.m. Stamps Faculty & Graduate Studios, 1919 Green Rd. Free, but preregistration requested at stamps.umich.edu/events. (734) 936–0671.*

"Santa Claus & Creatures": The Creature Conservancy. *Dec. 6 & 12.* All age 5 & up invited to meet **Santa, Sven the reindeer,** and other animals. Also, the chance to hear a story and take pictures with Santa. Cookies & milk. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. *6:30–8 p.m. (doors open at 6:15 p.m.), Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $25 each; preregistration required at thecreatureconservancy.org. (734) 929–9324.*

Candlelight Concert: Kalkaska String Quartet. *Dec. 6, 19, & 27 (different programs).* This Detroit-based ensemble presents candlelight concerts. Tonight: **"The Best of Hans Zimmer"** (6:30 p.m.) features music by the Oscar-winning German film composer; and **"A Tribute to Coldplay and Imagine Dragons"** (8:45 p.m.), features instrumental arrangements of music by these 2 early 21st-century rock bands. Age 8 & up. *6:30 & 8:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $28–$62 per show. Preregistration required at feverup.com/en/ann-arbor/candlelight.*

Comedy Mystery Dinner Show: The Dinner Detective Ann Arbor. *Dec. 6, 13, & 20.* Dinner served while actors masquerading as fellow diners enact a comical murder mystery in which actual audience members may find themselves a prime suspect. *6:30–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Marriott, 1275 S. Huron St., Ypsi. $70 includes gratuity; preregistration required at thedinnerdetective.com. (866) 496–0535.*

★**"Chasing Autumn": Booksweet Bookshop Author Event.** Local writer D.J. Hoogacker discusses his debut novel, a coming-of-age romance about the friendship between a boy and a girl that becomes a romantic relationship later in life. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

Racing Mount Pleasant: Music Matters. This chamber folk-rock septet whose instrumentation includes violin and horns was formed in 2019 as Kingfisher by U-M students. Known for its intimate multi-media live shows, the band "dwells in emotional quietude without sacrificing sonic grandeur," according to *New Yorker* reviewer Hanif Abdurraqib. Their musical style has been compared to bands like Bon Iver, Lord Huron, and Black Country. Tonight is a hometown coda to their North American tour promoting their eponymous new album. Openers: 2 local bands, the young alternative rock band **Out**

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of Focus and the versatile horn-fired R&B-tinged rock band **Grenadine.** *7 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $15–$25 in advance at mutotix.umich.edu/6153 & (if available) at the door. umichmusicmatters.com.*

"Oklahoma!": Golden Theatre Company. See 5 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Descendants: The Musical": Saline Varsity Blues. See 5 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**"Ride the Cyclone": U-M Basement Arts. See 5 Friday. 7** p.m.

Bo Johnson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

First Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Jason Little calls to music by Stout Hearted String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring clean shoes for dancing. Beginners' intro at 7 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10–$15 suggested donation. (734) 274–0773, aactmad.org/contra.*

Amy Fedel Memorial Concert: Amy and Lisa Fund. Performances by 2 local bands, the jazz ensemble **Five Miles More** and an eclectic mix of 60s & 70s rock and country by **Jeff & the Deck Chairs.** Also, a **Singalong Jukebox,** in which the audience performs songs they select from a list. Held in memory of Amy Fedel, an 8-year-old who was killed by a drunk driver in 1998, as well as her sister Lisa, who was severely injured in the same crash. Proceeds benefit Michigan Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, and the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. *7:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Rd. $15 (kids, $3) suggested donation. mfedela2@gmail.com, amyandlisa.fedel.com.*

"That's Just the Way Life Goes" Concert. Local jazz composer-pianist **Dean Solden** performs a mix of jazz, classical, and original songs. *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $25 (students, $10) in advance at evite.me/8tbmmhamuk and (if available) at the door. (734) 260–3600.*

146th Annual Handel's Messiah: University Choral Union & University Musical Society. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Scott Hanoian directs the 175-voice Choral Union and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Sherezade Panthaki,** countertenor **Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen,** tenor **Miles Mykkanen,** and bass-baritone **Enrico Lagasca.** The Choral Union Messiah, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah Chorus," has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. *7:30 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Hill Auditorium. Tickets $17–$48 (students, $15–$20) in advance at tickets.ums.org, at the Michigan League, & by phone, and (if available) at the door. (734) 764–2538.*

"Dhamaka: Ignite the Night": U-M Indian American Students Association Cultural Show. U-M students present an evening of old and new Indian culture, featuring Western and Eastern fashion shows, music, and a variety of student-choreographed performances that showcase various Indian dance styles performed in traditional regalia. One of the largest student-run productions in the country, with over 250 participants. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Michigan Theater. Tickets $22–$24 in advance, Mon.–Fri. 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m. at the IASA table in Haven Hall & online at michiganiasa.com, and at the door. iasaboard25@umich.edu.*

"A Man for Christmas": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"The Tragedy of Carmen": U-M Chamber Opera.** See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

R&B Christmas: Perfect Scenario. R&B, soul, and classic holiday music by local singer **Josie G** with a backup band TBA. Also, dancing to music spun by a DJ, a sing-along, and an ugly sweater contest, with prizes. Refreshments for sale. *8 p.m., Perfect Scenario, 984 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Entry is donation of a new toy or $10 in advance at josiegmusic.com/events and at the door.*

CHRIS SCARLETT

Detroit-area jazz singer & composer Olivia Van Goor pays tribute to Ella Fitzgerald Dec. 7 at Kerrytown Concert House. She also appears with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra on Dec. 20 for their annual Holiday Pops Concert.

★**"Bandura: the Soul of Ukraine": U-M Music School.** NYC-based bandura player Julian Kytasty, the longtime director of the New York Bandura Ensemble, discusses the history of this Ukrainian lyre-like instrument and the blind folk minstrels who popularized it. Kytasty also performs a few traditional songs, some originals, and a jazz duet with U-M saxophone student Anton Greene. *8 p.m., U-M Stearns Bldg. Cady Rm., 2005 Baits, North Campus. Free. (734) 763–2538.*

"The Gondoliers": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 4 Thurs. 8 p.m.

"The Thanksgiving Play": Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Saturday Night Improv: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Every Sat.* House team **Destination Unknown** improvises a scenario suggested by the audience. Opener: Guest troupe Vibes or Ghouls. *8:30–9:45 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

7 SUNDAY

Ypsi Flea Market. Show and sale of vintage items ranging from the early 1930s to the 1990s, featuring everything from clothing, jewelry, and furniture to records and more. Concessions. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Pl., Ypsi. Free admission & parking. ypsifleaswap@gmail.com, facebook.com/ypsifleaswap.*

★**"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association.** Re-creation of a cozy mid-19th-century Christmas, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and basket weaving and wreathmaking demos. Also, a **scavenger hunt,** stories by local storyteller Barb Schutzgruber, and live music by **the Cobbles,** a local traditional Irish band. Sale of fine art and crafts from local artists and artisans. Docent-guided tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). Free (donations appreciated). cobblestonefarmassociation@gmail.com, (734) 794–7120, cobblestonefarm.org.

"Elemental Ecstatic Dance": Our Play Ground. *Every Sun.* Dancers of all ages & abilities invited for free-form dancing. Flow toys, hula hoops, and other props provided. Wear loose clothes, barefoot or stockinged feet. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., A2 Yoga, 2030 Commerce Blvd. $20 (age 13 & under, free) cash or Venmo (@andjru) at the door only. andjru@yahoo.com, bit.ly/ecstatic-dance-a2.*

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to a relaxed pick-up game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. (734) 846–9418, hac-ultimatelist@googlegroups.com.*

★**"Christmas at Rentschler Farm": Saline Area Historical Society.** A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas. Also, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus (1 p.m.) in an old-fashioned sleigh, and craft demos. Refreshments. Gift shop. *Noon–3 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Free; donations accepted. salinehistory2@gmail.com, salinehistory.org/events-programs.*

★**"The Nightwatchman": Booksweet Bookshop Historical Fiction Book Club.** All invited to a discussion of Louise Erdrich's acclaimed 2020 novel about a humble night watchman in the 1950s who's also the tribal chairman of a band of Native Americans working to make the government honor its treaties. *Noon–1 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

"Matilda": Professional Youth Theatre of Michigan. See 5 Friday. Noon & 2 p.m.

★**Open Board Games: Sylvan Factory.** *Every Sun.* All invited to play one of a wide variety of board games in a casual, friendly atmosphere. Instruction provided. Also, on Dec. 7, **game playtesting** with Michigame Design Lab (2 p.m.), during which players are invited to try out new board and card games from local designers Bruce Bielawa & Joe Hopkins and provide feedback. *Noon–6 p.m., Sylvan Factory, 2459 W. Stadium. Free. info@sylvanfactory.com.*

★**"How to Become a Fossil": U-M Museum of Natural History Discovery Demos.** *Every Sat. & Sun., except Dec. 6.* Hands-on 20-minute family-oriented demo for age 5 & up about how fossils form and what they can tell us. *12:30 & 2:30 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478, ummnh.org.*

"Historic Earhart Manor Tour": Concordia University Ann Arbor Guild. Docent-led tour of this 1935 French-style country manor, currently home to Concordia administration, built by former local gasoline baron Harry Earhart. *1 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes Rd. $10; preregistration required. (734) 995–7509, concordiaguild@cuaa.edu.*

★**German Christmas Open House: Kempf House Museum.** *Dec. 7 & 14.* Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, decked out this year with a Christmas tree made from dyed goose feathers, a popular alternative to real trees in late 19th century German-American households. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free, but donations appreciated. (734) 994–4898, kempfhousemuseum.org.*

★**Native American Dance and Cultural Program: Ann Arbor District Library.** Champion powwow dancer **Reg Pettibone,** a full-blooded Ho-Chunk Nation member, performs traditional native dances, songs, and stories, and presents a hands-on display of artifacts. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Walking with Whales Tour": U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Sun.* Thirty-minute tour that uses the museum's specimens to tell the story of prehistoric whales and dolphins, who had 4 limbs and walked on land. *1:30 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. Limited capacity. Sign up at the welcome desk. (734) 764–0478.*

★**Sunday Drop-In Tour: U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** *Dec. 7 & 28.* Docent-led tours exploring ***The Villa of the Mysteries*** (Dec. 7), a nearly life-size reproduction of the frescoes of a well-preserved ancient Roman villa on the outskirts of Pompeii, and **"Walk with an Egyptian: A Journey Through Time"** (Dec. 28). *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★**Gift Wrap Swap: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to pick up unused gift wrapping that the AADL has collected. Donations accepted at all AADL locations through Dec. 1. *2–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**26th Annual Ann Arbor TubaChristmas.** George Thompson conducts this outdoor performance of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held this month across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Musicians invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join some 40 players in the performance. Registration (9:30 a.m.) and rehearsal (10 a.m.–noon) at the EMU Alexander Music Bldg., E. Circle Dr., Ypsi. Musicians are asked to bring a sack lunch and dress for the weather, including sunglasses. *2–3 p.m., Farmers Market Pavilion, Kerrytown. Free to spectators; $10 for participating musicians. (734) 395–9544, slowtoreply@gmail.com.*

"Olivia Van Goor Sings Ella Fitzgerald": Kerrytown Concert House. This rising young Detroit-area jazz singer & composer leads her ensemble in a concert dedicated to the swing-era jazz legend dubbed the "first lady of song," renowned for her impeccable swing timing, intonation, and virtuosic scat singing. The program includes songs from the entirety of Fitzgerald's expansive career, from hits like "Oh, Lady Be Good" and "How High the Moon" to obscure gems. With pianist Mike Harrison, bassist Reuben Stump, and drummer Dave Zwolinski. *2–4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $30–$40 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Thanksgiving Play": Penny Seats Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Man for Christmas": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"A Seussified Christmas Carol": Saline Area Players. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**Bløm Book Club: Bløm Mead + Cider.** All invited to discuss ***True Grit,*** Charles Portis's 1968 western about an eccentric 14-year-old girl who sets out to avenge the death of her father with the help of the meanest U.S. marshal she can find. *2:30–3:30 p.m., Bløm,*

100 S. Fourth Ave. Free. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.

★**Author Reading: Booksweet Bookshop.** Local fiction writer **Ann Epstein,** local short story writer **Maureen Aitken,** and local poet & photographer **Keith Hood** read selections from their work. *3–4:30 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

International Folk Dance Party: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. *Dec. 7 & 21.* Traditional Eastern European and Middle Eastern circle and line dancing to recorded music. No experience or partner needed. Wear loose-fitting clothing and clean, flat, nonslip shoes. Beginners welcome. Preceded at 2 p.m. by a lesson. *3–5 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Pay what you can ($5 suggested; first time, free). bsagan@msu.edu.*

★**"A Whoville Christmas": Voices in Harmony.** This local Sweet Adelines women's chorus presents a program of a cappella holiday music. *3 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. voicesinharmonychorus.org.*

★**Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band.** Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program highlighted by holiday classics as well as music from the stage and movies, including *The Polar Express.* Also, a vocal quartet joins the band to perform Broadway holiday favorites. *3–4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. (734) 426–2734, dextercommunityband.org.*

★**"Hometown Holiday Concerts": Chelsea Chamber Players.** Chelsea High School vocal director Kenneth Davis conducts this local string ensemble, along with Chelsea High School music students, the Chelsea First United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir, and the St. Joseph Parish Choir, in two performances today of 2 choral works: Nordic Suite, the Danish String Quartet's arrangement of Nordic folk music, and contemporary composer Dan Forrest's 5-movement cantata *Lux: The Dawn From On High.* The program concludes with a Christmas carol sing-along. *3 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 6805 Mast Rd., Dexter, & 7 p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church, 128 Park St., Chelsea. Free, but seating limited; arrive early. (734) 433–1622, chelseachamberplayers.com.*

"Candlelight Meditation Concert": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. Veteran local soprano and self-described "sound shaman" **Norma Gentile** plays singing bowls and sings sacred chants by the 12th-century mystic and abbess Hildegard von Bingen, then improvises chants inspired by the energies she feels in the room. *4 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. $20 suggested donation. (734) 657–5384, cafe704@gmail.com.*

Rory Scovel. The Blind Pig. Acclaimed stand-up comic from South Carolina known for his disarming delivery and improvisational style, with unpredictable jokes and stories on topics that segue rapidly through everything from marriage and religion to politics and Hollywood. *4 & 7 p.m., Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. $47 in advance at blindpigmusic.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–8555.*

★**Wanting Memories": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus Concert.** Karen TenBrink directs this 40+ member chorus in a program of evocative pieces on the theme of memories by Ysaye Barnwell, Franz Biebl, Andrea Ramsey, and Michigan composer Jeffrey Cobb, along with several pieces drawn from traditional Korean folk culture. Piano accompanist is Edward Wyman. *4:30 p.m., Skyline High School Auditorium, 2552 N. Maple. Free. (734) 994–2300. a2civicchorus.weebly.com.*

Artists' Showcase: Dance Uprising. Local professional, student, and youth dancers present an informal recital of completed works and works-in-progress by area choreographers. Audience members are invited to stay after the performance to share feedback with presenting artists. *4–5:40 p.m., Ann Arbor Dance Classics, 3777 Plaza Dr. $10–$30 suggested donation in*

Forest Hill, Ann Arbor's Landmark Cemetery

Over 150 years of history and still able to grow

Burial lots, indoor and outdoor cremation niches available.		
Burial rights:	Provides for:	Prices start at:
Lot	1 full burial, or 1 burial and 1 cremain, or 2 cremains	$900
Outdoor Niche	1 cremain	$1,300
Indoor Niche	2 cremains	$1,365

An urban forest . . . for decades a place of peace and beauty in the midst of a bustling Ann Arbor, Forest Hill Cemetery still has more than 8000 burial sites and cremation niches available for purchase.

The stone-crafted Columbarium, in the background above, provides indoor cremation niches. Outdoor niches are available as well. Forest Hill is owned by its lot owners as a 501(c)(13) nonprofit corporation, and it is eligible to receive tax deductible bequests and gifts from anyone wishing to help preserve this place of beauty.

Granted a legendary heritage with its long ties to the Ann Arbor community, Forest Hill offers to all a quiet dwelling place of peace and tranquility.

Visit our new website:
www.foresthillcemeteryaa.org

Forest Hill Cemetery
415 South Observatory at Geddes Avenue • Ann Arbor
Call 663-5018 for complete details

★ *Denotes a free event*

advance at danceuprising.com/events/artists-showcase & (if available) at the door.

★**"Intimate Portraits of Symphonic Giants": U-M Music School Faculty Recital.** U-M violin professor **Danielle Belen,** piano professor **Christopher Harding,** and other music faculty TBA perform chamber arrangements of symphonic works by Respighi, Mahler, and Shostakovich. *4:30 p.m., Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits, North Campus. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** *Every Sun., except Dec. 28.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish morisca. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. Free. a2morris@umich.edu.*

★**"Hurry, Shepherds, Run": Northside Community Church.** Paul Clark directs vocal and handbell choirs in the well-known contemporary Midwest composer Douglas E. Wagner's sacred choral Christmas piece and other holiday music. With pianist Eden West. *6 p.m., NCC, 929 Barton Drive. Free. (734) 649–7948, kgoodson@umich.edu.*

"Merry & Bright": Stone Chalet. The veteran Broadway husband-and-wife duo of **Chelsea and Geoff Packard,** a pair of U-M musical theater professors, sing a festive cabaret-style program of holiday favorites. With piano accompaniment by Tyler Driskill. A benefit for Food Gatherers. *6:30 p.m., Stone Chalet, 1917 Washtenaw. Donation requested. (866) 382–6542.*

"Extra Credit": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Three 10-minute academic lectures by U-M researchers on topics TBA, each followed by a 10-minute improv comedy set on the topic by experienced improvisers. *6:30–7:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Every Sun., except Dec. 28.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including foxtrots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 6 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $5 ($10 includes lessons). (734) 763–6984.*

★**"Music for Meditation": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** Detroit Opera Orchestra principal harpist **Juan Riveros** performs seasonal music. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a service of sung Compline. *7–8 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. (734) 663–0518.*

"Oklahoma!": Golden Theatre Company. See 5 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**The UnClub": The Theater Shop.** *Dec. 7 & 21.* Performances by aspiring and experienced comics attending former Tonight Show staff writer Chili Challis's comedy dojo. The humor is appropriate for adults. *7:30 p.m., the Ypsi Alehouse, 124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/unclubshow.*

"The Gondoliers": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 2 Thurs. 8 p.m.

8 MONDAY

★**Sewing Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to get basic sewing help with their unfinished projects or learn how to use the AADL sewing machines. Bring your own sewing machine, if you wish. No experience necessary. Also, local sewing instructor Rae Hoekstra discusses how to sew **apparel fabrics.** *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Jane Austen's 250th Birthday Celebration: Embroidery": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to learn about the role that embroidery played in the lives of early 19th-century English women and practice basic stitches. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Sakura Japanese Instrumental Group: Ann Arbor District Library.** This local ensemble performs Japanese festive and folk music on taiko drums and traditional string & wind instruments. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** Beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited to play Renaissance and other early music, directed by Janet Cannon. Bring your own music stand. *7–9 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church basement music rm. (enter by the back door), 1501 W. Liberty. First meeting free (annual dues $95). a2recordersociety.org.*

"Blueish Groove": Formosa Quartet. This adventurous string quartet, EMU's 2024–25 McAndless Distinguished Scholars in the Humanities, performs a program of American blues, jazz, and folk, including Wynton Marsalis' "At the Octoroon Balls" and the quartet's own arrangements. The quartet won first prize and the Amadeus prize at the 2006 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition and has been hailed for their "technical brilliance" by *BBC Music Magazine.* With violinists Jasmine Lin and David Bernat, violist Matthew Cohen, and cellist Deborah Pae. *7 p.m., EMU Alexander Music Bldg., E. Circle Dr., Ypsi. Tickets $20 (seniors, $15; students, $12; kids, $7) at emich.ludus.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 487–1336, dpae@emich.edu.*

★**Scandinavian Music Jam.** *Dec. 8 & 22.* Bruce Sagan leads an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience necessary. *7:30–9:30 p.m., in person or virtual TBA. For location, email bsagan@msu.edu. Free.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this ensemble of music-student juniors & seniors in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* overture, Strauss's symphonic tone poem "Don Juan," Wagner's Tannhauser overture, and Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos featuring U-M piano professors Ana María Otamendi and Elena Lacheva. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a brief talk. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. (734) 764–2538.*

9 TUESDAY

★**Sunrise Nature Hike: Nature Learning Community.** Naturalist Elle Bogle leads a hike through the woody hills and ravines of Bird Hills to savor the brisk morning air and see how the inhabitants are preparing for winter's long sleep. Proper winter gear and binoculars recommended. *8:30–10:30 a.m., Bird Hills, 1850 Newport. Free. ellebogle@yahoo.com, naturelearningcommunity.org.*

★**Block Printing Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to use soft blocks to carve and print a design onto blank note cards or paper. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Faux Stained Glass": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults & teens to design a colorful pattern using markers on glass, then apply foil to create a gleaming and glinting stained-glass-like effect. *6–7 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Collage and Chill": Dzanc House. *Dec. 9 & 23.* All invited to make collages. Supplies provided, but bring your own if you like. Check website before coming to make sure the event is being held. *6–8 p.m., Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. Free; donations accepted. dzanchouse.org.*

★**"Sulyap sa Nakaraan: A Recital of Indigenous and Traditional Philippine Music": U-M Southeast Asian Studies Department.** U-M students perform traditional Philippine folk music. Followed by a reception. Filipino food for sale to benefit the Philippine Arts and Culture Ensemble of Michigan. *6:45 p.m., the Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. (734) 764–0352, cseas@umich.edu.*

★**Holiday Sing-Along & Food Drive: Huron Valley Harmonizers.** All invited to sing favorite carols with members of this local chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Followed by refreshments. Donations of cash or shelf-stable food for Saline Area Social Services accepted. *7–9 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. info@hvharmonizers.org, hvharmonizers.org.*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ypsi Shape Note Group.** *Dec. 9 & 23.* All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp singing, an early American form of hymn singing that uses musical notation with distinct shapes to make learning easier. Loaner songbooks available. No experience required. *7–9 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, Off Center Bldg., 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. riversidearts.org/shape-note-singing-ypsilanti.*

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M Music School.** Jayce Ogren directs this grad student ensemble in a program featuring works by 20th-century Italian composer Luciano Berio, including *points on the curve to find …,* his effusive 1974 piece for piano and chamber orchestra, and 4 of his Sequenzas, a collection of 19 virtuosic solo works for different instruments that often call for nontraditional playing techniques to obtain unusual sounds or timbres. Also, Pierre Boulez's Répons, an experimental 1981 piece for large chamber orchestra with 6 percussion soloists and live electronics. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

10 WEDNESDAY

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★**"Button Lab": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults & kids age 12 & up to make fun buttons using AADL button makers and their own pictures or images from

holiday art shows & bazaars

Shows and sales of an assortment of items that can include art, fiber art, pottery, jewelry, paintings, rugs, seasonal items, gifts, baked goods, and more. Free admission unless otherwise indicated.

Kiwanis Annual Holiday Sale. *Every Fri. & Sat., Nov. 28–Dec. 20.* Used toys, decorations, and more. *9 a.m.–1 p.m. (Fri.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sat.), Kiwanis Center West, 100 N. Staebler. (734) 368–9738.*

Ypsilanti Artisans Holiday Market. *Nov. 29 & 30, Dec. 20 & 21. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Pl., Ypsi.*

Hanukkah Bazaar: Women of Temple Beth Emeth. *Nov. 28 & 30, Dec. 5 & 7.* Traditional Hanukkah items and more. *11 a.m.–3 p.m. (Fri.) & 3–7 p.m. (Sun.), TBE, 2309 Packard. (734) 665–4744.*

The Guild of Artists & Artisans Holiday Artist Market. *Every Wed.–Sat., Nov. 14–Dec. 20.* Juried. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., The Gutman Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave. (734) 662–3382.*

Bløm Midnight Madness Holiday Market. *Dec. 5.* Art and artisan market. *5–11 p.m. Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

Art on the Lake. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Woven and felted apparel & glass jewelry. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., 505 Lakeview Ave. carolfurtado.com.*

Winter Art Market: York Food & Drink. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Local artists. *8 a.m.–10 p.m., York Food & Drink, 1928 Packard. (734) 395–1299.*

Christmas Cookie Market & Holiday Bazaar. *Dec. 6.* Cookies by the pound and artisan vendors to support Dexter Area Girl Scouts. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Joseph's Catholic Church Hall, 6805 N. Territorial Rd., Dexter.*

Dexter Heritage Guild Annual Holiday Bazaar. *Dec. 6 & 13.* Gift baskets, bake sale, visits with Santa (Dec. 13, 1–3 p.m.). *9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 6), & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Dec. 13), Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter. dexterhistory.org.*

Winter Artisan Market. *Dec. 6. 9 a.m.–8:30 p.m., Argus, 1200 Packard. (734) 997–5448.*

Friends at Front Porch Holiday Sale. Dec. 6 & 7. Juried show and sale by artists. *9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.) & 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sun.), 1219 Traver. (734) 478–9053, maryunderwood51@icloud.com.*

Dzanc House Holiday Market. *Dec. 6.* Juried show and sale. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. Cafe Liv, 202 N. Washington, Ypsi.*

Huron Valley Woodturners 13th Annual Holiday Sale. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Bowls, pens, vases, and lamps. Also, demos. *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Crossroads Community Center, 5501 Webster Church Rd., Dexter. ericaellenperry@gmail.com.*

Ann Arbor Potters Guild Winter Sale. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Popular sale includes gifts specially priced for kid-sized budgets. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. (734) 663–4970.*

Janet Kelman's Holiday Sale. *Dec. 6.* Works in glass. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., 1410 Barnard Rd. janetkelman.com.*

Disability Network Holiday Market. *Dec. 6. 1–4 p.m., Disability Network, 3941 Research Park Dr. $5 suggested donation at the door. (734) 971–0277, claire@dnwml.org, dnwml.org.*

Sunday Artisan Market. *Every Sun. through Dec. 21.* Juried market. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers Market Pavilion, Kerrytown. (734) 913–9622.*

Chelsea Painters Art Sale. *Dec. 7.* Paintings, jewelry, prints. *12–4 p.m., Chelsea Community Fairgrounds service building, 20501 W. Old US-12. Chelsea.*

Stephenson Ceramics. *Dec. 12 & 13.* Sculptures, fiber art, & useful objects. *Noon–4 p.m., 4380 Waters Rd. stephensonceramicstudio.com.*

Yourist Studio Gallery Holiday Sale. *Dec. 12–14.* Juried show & sale of ceramic works. Reception Dec. 12, 5–8 p.m. *Noon–8 p.m. (Fri.), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sat.), & 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sun.), YSG, 6087 Jackson Rd. youristpottery.com.*

Motawi Tileworks Winter Market. Dec. 13. Tiles, ceramics, jewelry, and other art. With appearances by Santa & Mrs. Claus (10 a.m.–noon), docent-led 20-minute factory tours (10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.), and a tile signing with founder Nawal Motawi (1–2 p.m.). *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Motawi Tileworks, 170 Enterprise Dr. (734) 213–0017.*

The Washtenaw Food Hub Holiday Market. *Dec. 13.* Food and crafts. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., The Washtenaw Food Hub, 4175 Whitmore Lake Rd.*

The Tiny Expo: Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 13.* More than 50 local artists and artisans. Also, craft activities (1–4 p.m.) for all ages. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., AADL Downtown. (734) 327–4200.*

Christkindlmarkt: St. Thomas Catholic Church. *Dec. 14.* European-style outdoor festival with vendors. *1–6 p.m., St. Thomas, 530 Elizabeth. (734) 761–8606.*

Dixboro Christmas Market. *Dec. 13.* With carolers, Santa (5 p.m.), and a tree lighting (6 p.m.). *4 p.m., Dixboro Village Green, 5221 Church Rd.*

Scio Farms Christmas Market. *Dec. 13–14.* Artisan goods. *10 a.m.–7 p.m., Scio Farms Clubhouse, 6655 Jackson Rd.*

Christmas Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. *Dec. 20, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd., Dexter. (734) 475–4590, stva2.org.*

the AADL collection of old magazines. *5–6 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Let's Be Friends: Looking for a Book Club": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to meet with others interested in joining or starting a book club. *6–7 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Let's Eat!": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** All invited to visit 4 tasting stations to learn about how food is grown around the world and eat small bites made from plants like the ones growing in Matthaei's conservatory. Chefs are from U-M Dining Services. *6–7:30 p.m., UMMBG, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. (734) 647–7600, mbgna.umich.edu/events.*

★**"Coniferous Splendiferous: An Exploration of Conifer Essences": Ann Arbor District Library Smell & Tell.** Local writer and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning flavor and fragrance blog Glass Petal Smoke, leads a guided smelling of different conifer species. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Community Sing with Matt Watroba": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Local singer-songwriter and WKAR-FM (MSU) radio folk show host Watroba leads a sing-along of songs from the various branches of American folk music. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 327–0270, interfaithspirit.org.*

Bluegrass Jam Circle: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All musicians invited to bring acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome. In inclement weather (severe thunderstorms, etc.), the jam is canceled. Please call by 3 p.m. today with any questions. *7–9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5. (734) 794–6250, a2blugrass.com.*

★**Chinese Music Ensembles: U-M Residential College.** RC music students perform traditional Chinese music that they've been working on throughout the year. *7 p.m., East Quad Keene Theater, 701 East University. Free. (734) 647–4354.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Pop-Up Comedy": Don't Tell Comedy Show. Both the lineup of stand-up comics and the location are not revealed until the day of the show. Age 21+. Drinks for sale. *7 & 9 p.m. (doors open 30 minutes before showtime), Kerrytown neighborhood indoor location. Tickets $30 in advance only at donttellcomedy.com/cities/ann-arbor.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 7:15 p.m.

11 THURSDAY

★**"Holiday Cookie Exchange": International Neighbors.** Area women invited to bring holiday cookies to share and enjoy together. Also, a chance to learn about the organization and its various special interest, language, and tea groups. International Neighbors is a 66-year-old group of local women who welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Kids welcome. *1–2:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. inannarbor.org.*

★**"Intro to Laser Engraving: Hand-Drawn Designs": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to use a laser cutter to turn their own hand-drawn design into a laser engraving. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Crochet Pet Bandana": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to crochet a simple granny triangle bandana that can be used to dress up a cat, dog, or other pet. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"The Children's Psychiatric Hospital at U-M: A History, 1955–1990": U-M Bentley Historical Library Making Michigan Series.** Talk by U-M psychiatry professor Laura Hirshbein. *6–8 p.m., Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann. Preregistration required at detroitobservatory.umich.edu. Livestream available. Free. (734) 764–3523.*

★**Fiber Arts Drop-In: Dzanc House.** All invited to join in crocheting, knitting, embroidering, etc. Check website before coming to make sure the event is being held. *6–9 p.m., Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. dzanchouse.org.*

★**"A Drive-Thru Christmas Experience": Ann Arbor Baptist Church.** *Dec. 11–14.* Carside entertainment featuring a decorated 25-foot Christmas tree and a live Nativity scene. Also, carolers and the screening of a 5-minute drive-in movie about Christmas. Take-home cookies and hot chocolate (or eat them in the car, if you like). The entire circuit takes 20 minutes. *6–8 p.m., Ann Arbor Baptist Church, 2150 S. Wagner. Free. (734) 995–5144.*

"The Great Cardboard Challenge": Humane Society of Huron Valley. All age 18 & up invited to engage in a competition constructing cozy cardboard cabins for resident shelter cats, using only provided materials. Prizes for creativity, aesthetics, and tailoring to feline behavior. Includes a tour through the cat area and refreshments. *6:30–9 p.m., Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. $20 per person. Individual registration, but participation as a team encouraged. Preregistration required at hshv.org/events.*

★**"Emerging Writers Workshop Write-In": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local editor Alex Kourvo and young adult novelist Bethany Neal lead an open writing session. *6:30–7:45 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 327–0270.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Duoplicity Improv Jam": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. All improvisers with some experience are invited to be randomly paired up to perform a 6-minute scene. Spectators welcome. *7–8 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $7.50 in advance at heardotsay.com/events and at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

Cy Amundson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 11–13.* Amiable Minnesota-born, Ohio-based standup whose act blends storytelling with observations about the absurdities of life, from performative Facebook birthday wishes to what it means to have "bad vibes." Preceded by opening acts TBA. Alcohol served. *7:15 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 (Thurs., $15) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

★**"Light Up the Holidays with Song": Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir, accompanied by pianist Maria Cimarelli, in a program of seasonal choral music, highlighted by a series of carols by Marquette native and U-M grad **Alfred Burt** (1920–1954), including "Caroling, Caroling," "All On A Christmas Morning," "We'll Dress the House," and others. Also, traditional carols. Followed by a carol sing-along. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free; donations accepted. (734) 481–9285, ypsicommchoir.org.*

Chamber Orchestra of Europe: University Musical Society. Maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads the London-based Chamber Orchestra of Europe in an all-Brahms program that includes the dramatic, emotional Symphony No. 1 in C minor and the taut, muscular Tragic Overture, which is not particularly tragic. For the Double Concerto in A minor, with its unusual combination of instruments and wealth of musical ideas, the orchestra is joined by young German violinist **Veronika Eberle** and French cellist **Jean-Guihen Queyras.** *7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $23–$108 (students $15–$20) in advance at tickets.ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. (734) 764–2538.*

"A Man for Christmas": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

12 FRIDAY

★**"Midday Morsel Drop-In Tour": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** 30-minute docent-led tour of ancient artifacts in the museum's collection. *12:30 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State (meet at the Maynard St. entrance). Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★**U-M Clements Library Tour.** Hour-long docent-led tour of the Clements' early American history collection highlighted by *For All Ages,* a new exhibit of 19th-century toys, games, and educational materials. *4–5 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Free; preregistration required at clements.umich.edu. (734) 649–3370.*

★**Tony Pinnell: Argus Farm Stop Packard Cafe.** Versatile local singer-guitarist with country-rock roots who plays an eclectic mix of acoustic rock, indie pop-folk, and world music covers. Featuring guest Lizzie Randolph. *5:30–7:30 p.m., Argus Farm Stop, 1200 Packard. Free; food & drink for sale. Tips welcome. (734) 997–5448, argusfarmstop.com/events-1.*

Yule Log Making: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. All age 10 & up invited to make a decorative yule log using provided greenery, pinecones, & ribbon. Bring your own materials, if you like. *5:45–6:45 p.m. & 7–8 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center Pavilion, 3200 Jennings, Whitmore Lake. $15 per household (up to 4 people). Preregistration required (registration #IL441200) at parksonline.ewashtenaw.org. $6 (nonresidents, $10) vehicle entry fee. (734) 449–4437, independencelake@washtenaw.org*

★**"Jane Austen's 250th Birthday Celebration: Trivia": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to trivia questions drawn from Austen's 6 finished novels. *6–7 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. EMU & WMU. Exhibition meet. *6:45 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets (price TBA) in advance at mgoblue.com/tickets and (if available) at the gate. (734) 764–0247.*

★**Winter Solstice Pagan-Chant Sing-Along: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to celebrate the shortest day and the longest night of the year with music from pagan spiritual traditions. Percussion instruments provided. *7–8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 327–0270.*

"Christmas Cabaret": Dexter Community Players. *Dec. 12–14.* Members of this local theater troupe perform a family-friendly cabaret-style revue of Christmas favorites and Broadway showtunes. Also, a chance for kids to take pictures with Santa. Hot cocoa, coffee, and desserts served. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Columbus Hall, 8265 Dexter-Chelsea Rd., Dexter. Tickets $20 (students & seniors, $15) in advance at dcp.yapsody.com and at the door.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Matilda": Professional Youth Theatre of Michigan. See 5 Friday. 7 p.m.

Cy Amundson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

Mr. B & the Kerrytown Stompers: Kerrytown Concert House. World-renowned veteran local blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun, an exuberant, powerful performer whose repertoire includes both boogie-woogie and blues classics, along with some originals. Tonight he is joined by the Kerrytown Stompers, an all-star local vintage jazz ensemble led by drummer and washboard player Pete Siers. With cornetist Dave Kosmyna, clarinetist Ray Heitger, guitarist Alex Belhaj, and bass saxophonist Chris Tabaczynski. *7:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $30–$40 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if*

★ *Denotes a free event*

available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.

"Candlelight Concert": EMU Music Department. *Dec. 12 & 13.* Choral director Brandon Johnson leads the EMU choirs in a festive program TBA. EMU'S biggest holiday event. *7:30 p.m. (Fri.) & 3 p.m. (Sat.), EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsi. Tickets $20 (students, $5) in advance at emich.ludus.com and at the door. (734) 487–0280.*

"Great Music in a Sacred Space": Measure for Measure. Pioneer High choir director Steven Lorenz leads this popular local men's chorus in carol arrangements & classic holiday songs. Reception follows. *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew the Apostle, 910 Austin Dr., Saline. $19 (seniors & kids ages 6–12, $15) in advance at standrewsaline.org/online-giving and at the door. (734) 649–7664.*

★**"Holly-Day Delights": Washtenaw Community Concert Band.** Music director J. Nick Smith leads this popular 80-piece volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday band music. The program includes a **holiday sing-along.** Followed by light refreshments. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. (734) 252–9221, wccband.org.*

Holiday Concert: Women's Chamber Chorus. Joshua Marzan directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program of spirituals and contemporary holiday choral works by Moses Hogan, John Rutter, Laura Farnell, and others. Accompanist is Eden West. Also, handbell music by the **First Presbyterian Church Sanctus Ringers,** directed by David VanderMeer. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $10 (children age 11 & under, free) at the door only. (734) 665–9271.*

"A Man for Christmas": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Jordan Klepper: Live Nation. A frequent correspondent for Comedy Central's *The Daily Show,* this Kalamazoo native has made his name with fearless, deadpan, and hilarious interviews with ordinary Americans, from Democratic convention delegates to MAGA rally attendees. Tonight's show, ***Suffering Fools,*** addresses the pain and foolishness of our current cultural moment, told through personal stories from Klepper's time on the road. Opening: Bluegrass-tinged folk-rock singer-songwriter **Langhorne Slim.** *7:30 (sold out) & 10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $47–$63 in advance at michtheater.org/events & ticketmaster.com, and (if available) at the door. (734) 478–7515.*

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**"Femme Feedback" Comedy Night: Bløm Mead + Cider.** A variety of female and trans comics try out new material, with a veteran comic presiding to offer feedback. *8–10 p.m. Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food and drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

13 SATURDAY

★ **Jolly Jog Fun Run: Fleet Feet.** 5K noncompetitive run/walk. Holiday attire encouraged. Donations for Mott Children's Hospital collected. *9–11 a.m., Fleet Feet, 123 E. Liberty. Free, but preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2-2025-jollyjog.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Dec. 13 & 14.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. Youths age 17 & under must be accompanied by an adult. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, bldg. A, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $5 (members, $3; kids age 12 & under, free). (517) 546–4710.*

★**"BIPOC Bird Walk": Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance.** An opportunity for people from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) communities and their allies to look for birds around Ford Lake and North Bay Park. Binoculars provided. *9:30–11:30 a.m., meet at the B2B Trail entrance at 526 Grove St., Ypsi. Free. washtenawbna.org.*

★**Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory.** All invited to tour the historic building, view exhibits, participate in astronomy-related activities, and (weather permitting) view the sun with the Observatory's solar telescope. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free, no registration required. (734) 764–3482, detroitobservatory.umich.edu.*

★**17th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show.** Popular local radio personality Lance hosts a live recording for broadcast of an old-fashioned radio variety show with performances by the Depot Town Big Band, the Dodworth Saxhorn Band, Chicago Road Brass Quintet, the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Choirs, the Ypsilanti Community Choir, the Huron Valley Harmonizers, the Ann Arbor Concert Brass Band, the Ypsilanti Community Middle School Choir, Wine, Women & Song, and others. The show airs Dec. 20 & 21, noon–5 p.m. and Dec. 24 & 26, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. on 1290 WLBY-AM and 1290WLBY.com. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., Briarwood JCPenney wing. Free. (734) 717–2182, 1290WLBY.com.*

"Holiday Greens": Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club members show how to make a holiday wreath or arrangement of holiday greens. *1–3 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $20 materials fee; metered parking. Reservation required by emailing nhartgreen@aol.com. mbgna.umich.edu/events.*

★**"Birch Bark Stars": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** City environmental educator Eleva Potter leads adults age 18 & up in making stars from provided natural materials. *1–3 p.m., Natural Area Preservation Office, 3875 E. Huron River Dr. Free, preregistration required (space limited) at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★**Community Holiday Sing: Ann Arbor Civic Chorus.** All welcome to join chorus members in singing holiday favorites. Sheet music & lyrics provided. *1–2 p.m., Farmers Market Pavilion, Kerrytown. Free.*

★**Museum Highlight Tours: U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Sat., except Dec. 6.* 30-minute tour of the museum's exhibits and galleries, as well as an introduction to some current U-M Biological Sciences research projects. *1:30 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. Limited capacity. Sign up at the welcome desk. (734) 764–0478.*

★**U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Saturday Sampler.** *Dec. 13, 20, & 27.* Docent-led tour exploring a range of mythical creatures in **"Centaurs and Sirens and Satyrs, Oh My!"** (Dec. 13), along with **"Daily Life in Ancient Rome"** (Dec. 20), and **"Highlights of the Kelsey Museum"** (Dec. 27). *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Dance Classics. *Dec. 13 & 14.* Young local dancers perform choreography by AADC teachers to Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet. *2 p.m., Milan High School Performing Arts Center, 200 Big Red Dr., Milan. Tickets $19 through Dec. 12 at aadanceclassics.com and $22 (cash only) at the door. (734) 302–4248.*

"Christmas Cabaret": Dexter Community Players. See 12 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Matilda": Professional Youth Theatre of Michigan. See 5 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

61st Annual Community Messiah Sing. All people capable of reading and performing vocal parts are invited to join this venerable local seasonal tradition, a friendly, informal, unrehearsed run-through of Handel's beloved oratorio, directed by Richard Ingram and accompanied by a volunteer orchestra. Over 100 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. Twenty to 25 volunteer instrumentalists are also needed; prospective players should fill out the form at tinyurl.com/2025-a2-messiah as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The *Prout* edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and arrive at 2:30 p.m. Singers should arrive 15 minutes early. Beverages provided; bring goodies to share. *3–6 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. $5 suggested donation to help defray hosting costs. a2messiahsing@gmail.com.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. *Dec. 13 & 14 (different locations).* Boychoir music director John Boonenberg leads this local ensemble of boys ages 7–18, accompanied by organist Naki Sung-Kripfgans, in its 39th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the traditional processional "Once in Royal David's City," with the first verse sung by a solo boy soprano, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day." The program also features 2 works by contemporary composers—Toby Young's rhythmically intricate "Come and Dance" and Steve Parsons' soaring Magnificat—and 20th-century American composer Carolyn Jennings' beloved "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain." Also, sing-alongs of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. These concerts usually sell out. *3 p.m. (Sat.), St. Paul Lutheran Church, 420 Liberty, & 6 p.m. (Sun.), First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, 300 N. Washington, Ypsi. Tickets $20 (youths 17 & under, free) in advance at boychoir-of-ann-arbor.square.site & tickets@a2boychoir.org, and (if available) at the door. (734) 663–5377.*

"Candlelight Concert": EMU Music Department. See 12 Friday. 3 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

Christmas in the Village: Historic Webster Village. All invited to wander this preserved & restored 19th century village, lit by luminarias and decorated in period style for the holidays, as the costumed members of a cappella chorus

galleries

Exhibits opening this month in dedicated gallery spaces. For ongoing exhibits, see annarborobserver.com/calendar/galleries.

AADL Downtown, 343 S. Fifth Ave. *Downtown, lower level display cases:* ***A Collection*** (Dec. 20–Jan. 31). Original posters of shows, tours, and concerts collected by Douglas Edwards over his long career as a stagehand. *Daily, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. (734) 327–4555.*

Chris Nordin Studios Gallery, 117 E. Ann. ***Collection Exhibit*** (Nov. 14–Jan. 4). Paintings, mosaics, sculptures, and works in glass by 10 of the gallery's regular featured artists. Reception: Nov. 30, 2–5 p.m. *Thurs. & Fri., noon–4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. (734) 834–2952, chris@chrisnordinstudios.com, chrisnordinstudios.com.*

Cluster Gallery, 307 N. Main. ***If We Go, We Go Together*** (Dec. 5–Jan. 3). Paintings, prints, & ceramics by 10 local artists, 5 of them associated with the gallery, 5 of them guest artists, who were each asked to invite one other artist to exhibit. Reception: Dec. 12, 6–9 p.m. *Wed.–Fri., 11 a.m.–5 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. except Dec. 24, 25, 31, & Jan. 1. clustermuseum.org.*

EMU Galleries. EMU Student Center, 900 Oakwood. Currents: ***A Regional High School Student Exhibit*** (Oct. 27–Dec. 14). Work in a variety of media by high school student artists. *Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Closed Dec. 24–Jan. 2. (734) 487–1268, emugalleries.org.*

Gallery 100 at Silver Maples, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea. ***Colorful Explorations*** (Nov. 5–Jan. 5). Paintings, collages, and drawings by 7 local artists united by their bold use of color. *Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. (734) 627–6544, silvermaples.org/gallery100, gallery100atsm@gmail.com.*

Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow. (Dec. 11–Jan. 7). Amster Gallery: ***The Stars of David Project.*** Chattanooga (TN) artist **Jennifer Lewis's** hand-drawn stars represent lives cut short by the Nazi regime. Newman Lounge: ***3D Wood Artwork.*** A large collection of 3D wood etchings and engravings by Southeast Michigan artist **Sara Young.** Reception: Dec. 11, 6–7:30 p.m. *Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Closed Dec. 24–Jan. 2. (734) 971–0990, jccannarbor.org.*

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. North Gallery: ***Anything But ... New Materials*** (Dec. 5–Jan. 9). Juried show of works by local artists that use recycled, reused, or repurposed materials. Reception: Dec. 5, 5–7 p.m. *Fri. 4–6 p.m. & Sat. 11–2 p.m. except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. (734) 480–2787, info@riversidearts.org, riversidearts.org/gallery.*

U-M Stamps Gallery, 201 S. Division. ***What's the Magic Word?*** (Nov. 14–Dec. 6). Immersive exhibition about censorship, with a focus on children's books, by U-M students in a class entitled "Gallery as Site for Social Change." Closing reception: Dec. 6, 6–8 p.m. ***Path Forward*** (Dec. 3–13). Work in video, fashion, painting, illustration, and sculpture by 15 U-M senior BA students. Opening reception: Dec. 5, 6–8 p.m. *Wed., Fri., Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. & Thurs. 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Closed Dec. 14–Jan. 10. (734) 615-5137, stamps.umich.edu/stamps-gallery.*

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. ***Art Fare*** (Nov. 28–Jan. 25). Works in a variety of media by local artists inspired by the food we eat and rituals for dining. ***Eat!*** (Nov. 28–Jan. 25). In the conservatory, living displays of edible plants from around the world, with recipes and stories shared by community members. *Tues. & Thurs.–Sun. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Call for holiday hours. (734) 647–7600, mbgna.umich.edu.*

WSG Gallery, 111 E. Ann. ***Holiday Show 2025*** (Dec. 1–27). Works by WSG member artists and 13 guest artists include paintings, jewelry, photography, glass, ceramics, fiber artbooks, cards, and more. Reception: Dec. 5, 5–9 p.m., during Kerrytown KindleFest. *Wed. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thurs. noon–6 p.m., Fri. noon–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., & Sun. noon–5 p.m., except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. (734) 929–2621, wsg-art.com.*

Arbor Consort sing carols. **Santa** entertains guests in the Old Town Hall, and volunteers read **"'Twas the Night Before Christmas"** at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. in the one-room schoolhouse. Also, kids holiday crafts, blacksmithing demos, and an outdoor bonfire. Hot chocolate and cookies for sale. *4–7 p.m., 5583 Webster Church Rd, Dexter. $10 cash or credit at the gate (kids 12 & under, free).*

"Motown for Mott Benefit Concert". The 7-piece **ARB Band** plays Motown, R&B, and classic rock tunes in this benefit for Mott Children's Hospital. Bring toys for kids in need if you can. Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., American Legion Hall, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd, Dexter. Suggested donation $10. thearbband.com.*

Marlena Studer & Steve Ragsdale: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704. Local duo of guitarist Ragsdale and Studer, a veteran jazz vocalist known for her passionate interpretations of standards. With a lineup of **guest musicians TBA.** *7–9 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Sliding scale tickets $10–$20 at the door only. Livestream available ($10 in advance only at interfaithspirit.org/cafe-704-coffeehouse). (734) 657–5384, cafe704@gmail.com.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. *Dec. 13 & 14.* Lisa Darby Clark & Adam B. Clark direct local dancers in this local dance school & repertory company's 28th annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. *7 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Saline High School Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $20 in advance at danceallianceofsaline.com, and (if available) at the door. (734) 429–9599, dancealliance@comcast.net.*

Cy Amundson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Maeve Devlin, along with several new callers TBA, calls to music by Pearl Street String Band. Bring clean-soled, nonslip flat shoes. Beginners' intro at 7 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. $10 suggested donation (pay what you can). mbean@emich.edu.*

"Stillness and Joy": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Ben Cohen leads this local chamber choir in a concert that includes both a cappella music and works accompanied by a chamber orchestra. The program is highlighted by Francesco Durante's artful Magnificat and Gustav Holst's setting of Christina Rossetti's Christmas poem "In the Bleak Midwinter." Also, Arvo Pärt's Magnificat, Sally Beamish's "In the Stillness," Hugo Alfvén's traditional Swedish choral "Aftonen," and Rachmaninoff's "Bogoroditse Devo." *7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William St. Tickets $25 ($20, students & seniors; kids 12 & under, free) in advance at vocalartsannarbor.org/season and at the door.*

"A Man for Christmas": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Who Can Say?": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Dec. 13 & 27.* Game show–style performance by experienced improvisers responding to prompts and challenges. *7:30–8:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $12 at the door. $20 ($23 at door) includes the 8:30 p.m. Saturday Night Improv show (see 6 Sat. listing). hello@heardotsay.com.*

★**Open Mic: Third Mind Books.** All invited to share short musical performances, stories, comedy, and poetry. Sign up on arrival. *8 p.m., Third Mind Books, 118 E. Washington. Free. (734) 994–3241, info@thirdmindbooks.com.*

14 SUNDAY
(HANUKKAH BEGINS)

★**"Signed Books Make Sweet Gifts": Schuler Books.** Open house with a chance to chat with local authors and get personalized signed books. With popular local chalk artist **David Zinn** (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) and local romance writer **Lexi Alexander** (1:30–3:30 p.m.). Also, a **mini scavenger hunt** for Zinn's artwork featured on walls throughout the store. *11 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Schuler Books, Westgate shopping center. Free; preregistration requested at schulerbooks.com/events-ann-arbor. (734) 662–0600.*

Holiday Open Skate & Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. Family open skate with an appearance by **Santa** (11:45 a.m.), followed by an **exhibition** (1:15 p.m.) of freestyle, ice dance, and pairs routines by AAFSC members of all ages and skating levels. *11:45 a.m.–4:05 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Admission price is canned food or a cash donation for Food Gatherers. (734) 213–6768.*

"Matilda": Professional Youth Theatre of Michigan. See 5 Friday. Noon.

★**Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, an early American form of communal hymn singing. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *1–4 p.m., the Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. Info: email cawolfe@umich.edu or call (734) 478–3394 or (734) 995–2519.*

★**DJ Workshop: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for teens and adults to learn the basics of mixing & beat-matching and get hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Hand-Sewing Marathon: Adorable Felt Radishes": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults & teens to learn how to make a decorative radish. This craft takes the entire session to complete. No sewing experience required; involves the use of sharp needles. *2–5:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Paper Lanterns": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids grade K & up invited to make a paper lantern decorated with watercolor paint. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"All About the Trio: Holiday Vibes": Ellen Rowe Trio (Kerrytown Concert House). Guest vibraphonist **Cary Kocher** sits in with the other members of U-M jazz piano Rowe's trio—bassist Paul Keller and drummer Pete Siers—to perform arrangements of holiday standards that pay tribute to jazz vibraphonists like Milt Jackson, Gary Burton, and Lionel Hampton. *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $30–$40 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Dance Classics. See 13 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. See 13 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Cabaret": Dexter Community Players. See 12 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Man for Christmas": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Lessons & Carols": St. Thomas Catholic Church.** Scripture readings and seasonal anthems & carols, along with a play, ***Our Lady of Guadalupe.*** *3 p.m., St. Thomas, 530 Elizabeth St. Free, donations accepted. (734) 761–8606.*

"Celebration of Christmas": St. Paul United Church of Christ. Area musicians TBA—choirs, ensembles, solos, and instrumentals—gather to present songs of the season. Also, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. All invited to arrive at 2 p.m. to join an ad-hoc choir. *3 p.m., SPUCC, 122 W. Michigan Ave, Saline. Free, donations to the Salvation Army welcome.*

"Suite & Swing Holiday Extravaganza": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in a program highlighted by 2 versions of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. After the YSO performs Tchaikovsky's original

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ballet score, the **Depot Town Big Band** plays Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's 1960 jazz arrangement of it. Also, other holiday favorites and an appearance by **Santa.** Fundraising auction. *3:30–5:30 p.m., Lincoln High School Performing Arts Center, 7425 Willis Rd., Ypsi. Tickets $13 (students, $7; seniors, $6; family of 4 or more, $30) in advance at a2tix.com and at the door. info@ypsilantisymphony.org.*

★**"The Glorious Sounds of Christmas Concert": First Presbyterian Church.** The church's chancel choir and Lemon Chapel Singers perform a festive program of Christmas music. Also, handbell tunes by the Sanctus and Joyful Ringers. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free. (734) 662–4466.*

"Holiday Concert": Ann Arbor Concert Band. A variety of small brass and woodwind ensembles, with piano accompaniment, perform holiday classics. The finale, "Joy to the World," features the church's pipe organ. *4 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Tickets $10 (age 4 & under, free) in advance at aaconcertband.square.site & (if available) at the door. (734) 478–7515, aaband.org.*

★**Annual Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Orchestra.** DCO music director David Schultz leads this volunteer orchestra and 2 guest ensembles—the **Dexter High School Chamber Orchestra** and the **Ann Arbor Civic Chorus**—in Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Christmas Overture,* Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus, selections from Vince Guaraldi's *A Charlie Brown Christmas,* Christmas carols, and other holiday favorites. *4–6 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free; donations accepted. (734) 355–0725, dextercommunityorchestra.org.*

"Sounds of the Season": Measure for Measure. Pioneer High choir director Steven Lorenz leads this popular local men's chorus in carol arrangements & classic holiday songs, including "Carol of the Bells" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Also, with choral music by contemporary American composers Elaine Hagenberg, Dan Forrest, and Howard Helvey. *4 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. $15 in advance at measure-for-measure.org, $20 at the door. (734) 649–7664.*

films

★**Ann Arbor District Library.** Occasional free screenings in the Downtown Branch, lower level program rm., and other locations as noted. (734) 327–4200.

***Dec. 1:* "Did You Guys Eat?/¿Ya comieron?"** (Stephany Slaughter, 2025). Hourlong documentary that follows small family farmers, organic growers, and the seasonal migrant workers in mid-Michigan farming communities. Followed by a Q&A with the director. English & Spanish, subtitles. 6:30 p.m.

Fathom Entertainment. (734) 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), (734) 316–5500 (Emagine). Tickets $12.50 (except as noted) in advance at fathomentertainment.com/events and at the door. Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter, Ypsi.) & Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline), various times.

***Dec. 4–18:* "Merrily We Roll Along."** Prerecorded broadcast of a 2024 Broadway production of this bittersweet 1981 Stephen Sondheim musical. The story begins in 1980 with 3 disillusioned old friends who have gone their separate ways, and travels back to the 50s when the pals were brimming with excitement and enthusiasm. Stars Daniel Radcliffe, Jonathan Groff, and Lindsay Mendez. Various times; see website. $15.

***Dec. 4 & 11:* "Wedding Crashers"** (David Dobkin, 2005). Romantic comedy about a pair of playboys who sneak into weddings to meet vulnerable women. Their game hits a bump in the road when they crash a high-profile wedding of a politician's daughter. 4:30 p.m., 7:10 p.m., & 9:55 p.m. (Dec. 4) and 4:15 p.m., 7:05 p.m., & 9:45 p.m. (Dec. 11). Ann Arbor 20 only.

Dec. 6: "The Magic Flute." Prerecorded broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's critically acclaimed 2006 production of Mozart's beloved "opera fantaisie." At once a love story, a whimsical comedy, and an adventure filled with sinister deceptions, *The Magic Flute* is above all an unsurpassed celebration, by turns jubilant and unsettlingly haunting, of the power of music. German, subtitles. 1 p.m.

***Dec. 7 & 10:* "André Rieu's Christmas Concert."** Concert film featuring old and new Christmas tunes led by this renowned Dutch violinist and conductor. Features dancing, figure skating, and an extensive lineup of musicians. 7 p.m. (Wed.) & 3 p.m. (Sat.). $18.

***Dec. 13 & 17:* "Andrea Chénier."** Live (Sat.) and prerecorded (Wed.) broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera production of Umberto Giordano's 1896 opera about a virtuous poet who falls victim to the intrigue and violence of the French Revolution. Italian, subtitles. 1 p.m. $27 (Sat.) & $25 (Wed.).

***Dec. 13 & 14:* "Dick Van Dyke 100th Celebration"** (Steve Boettcher, 2025). Documentary about the life of this beloved actor, comedian, singer, and dancer. 4:15 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Ann Arbor 20 only.

***Dec. 14:* "Christina Aguilera: Christmas in Paris"** (Sam Wrench, 2025). Concert film of a Christmas performance held in front of the Eiffel Tower by this pop superstar. 6:45 p.m. Ann Arbor 20 only. $15.

***Dec. 15–17:* "The Case for Miracles"** (Mani Sandoval, 2025). Religious documentary about a committed atheist who finds faith when he sets out to investigate the resurrection of Jesus. 6:30 p.m. Ann Arbor 20 only.

★**Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** FREE. Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. Concessions. jewelheart.org. (734) 994–3387.

***Dec. 12:* "Resurrection"** (Daniel Petrie, 1980). Ellen Burstyn plays a woman who dies momentarily in a car crash. When returned to life, she finds she has the power to heal people. Followed by discussion. 7 p.m.

Michigan Theater. Film screenings every day. Tickets $10.50 unless otherwise noted (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 and older, & U.S. veterans, $8.50; Marquee Arts members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. For updated schedule, see marquee-arts.org/calendar.

***Dec. 2:* "Breathless"** (Jean-Luc Godard, 1960). Landmark New Wave film about an impulsive young criminal on the run and the young American woman who joins him. French, subtitles. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 4:* "Tokyo Godfathers"** (Satoshi Kon, 2003). Japanese anime drama about a trio of homeless misfits who stumble upon an abandoned newborn baby in a trash bin and set out to find the baby's parents. Dubbed. 8 p.m.

***Dec. 5:* "Love Actually"** (Richard Curtis, 2003). Christmas-themed rom-com with an ensemble cast and multiple storylines. Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Keira Knightley. 9:30 p.m.

★***Dec. 7:* "The Muppet Christmas Carol"** (Brian Henson, 1992). The Muppets tackle Dickens' Christmas classic in this spirited live-action puppet musical. Michael Caine. FREE; reservation requested at marquee-arts.org. 1:30 p.m.

***Dec. 7:* "Animation Mixtape"** (Don Hertzfeldt, 2025). Collection of loopy, delightful animated shorts by different filmmakers. Prepare for flying cows, mysterious gods, and performatively enthusiastic clouds. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 9:* "Shoot the Piano Player"** (François Truffaut, 1960). Atmospheric melodrama about a former concert pianist who plays in a run-down bar and gets involved with gangsters. French, subtitles. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 11:* "Carol"** (Todd Haynes, 2015). A young woman falls for an older married woman in 1950s New York. Based on Patricia Highsmith's 1952 lesbian romance novel *The Price of Salt.* Rooney Mara, Cate Blanchett. 8 p.m.

***Dec. 13:* "The Nightmare Before Christmas"** (Henry Selick, 1993). Visually inventive Tim Burton–produced stop-motion animated fantasy about a skeleton from a Halloween world who discovers a joyous Christmas land. 1:30 p.m.

★***Dec. 14:* "Home Alone"** (Chris Columbus, 1990). When a vacationing family leaves its youngest son behind by mistake, his glee at ruling the family home turns into a hilarious battle to foil 2 burglars. Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern. FREE; reservation requested at marquee-arts.org. 1:30 p.m.

***Dec. 14:* "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence"** (Nagisa Ōshima, 1983). In this World War II drama, a British soldier (David Bowie) is captured by Japanese forces and held in a prison camp in Java, where a British colonel (Tom Conti) tries to bridge the cultural divide. English & Japanese, subtitles. 5 p.m.

***Dec. 17:* "The Holiday"** (Nancy Meyers, 2006). Rom-com about two lovelorn women, one British and one American, who swap houses over Christmas and bump into attractive local lads. Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Jack Black. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 18:* "Silent Night, Deadly Night"** (Charles Sellier Jr., 1984). Slasher film about a boy who witnesses his parents' murder on Christmas Eve by a man disguised as Santa Claus. 8 p.m.

***Dec. 19:* "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"** (Jeremiah S. Chechik, 1989). Comedy about a family holiday gone hilariously awry. Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 19:* "Die Hard"** (John McTiernan, 1988). Action thriller about an off-duty cop who takes on a gang of thieves who are using hostages to keep the police at bay. Bruce Willis. 9:30 p.m.

***Dec. 20:* "The Holdovers"** (Alexander Payne, 2023). Comedy-drama set in the 1970s starring Paul Giamatti as a disliked prep school teacher who must supervise students unable to return home for Christmas. 7 p.m.

★***Dec. 21:* "The Polar Express"** (Robert Zemeckis, 2004). Animated adventure fantasy based on Chris Van Allsburg's children's book about a boy who doubts the existence of Santa Claus and boards a mysterious train to the North Pole. FREE, reservation requested at marquee-arts.org. 1:30 p.m.

***Dec. 21:* "It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). It would hardly be Christmas without this sentimental classic about a man who gets a second chance at life. James Stewart, Donna Reed. 5 p.m.

***Dec. 23:* "The Bells of St. Mary's"** (Leo McCarey, 1945). Sentimental drama about a priest and a nun who share a good-natured rivalry while they join forces to try to save their parochial school from being shut down. Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 27:* "Little Women"** (Greta Gerwig, 2019). In this 7th film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's beloved 1868 novel about 4 sisters growing up in a New England household during the Civil War, Gerwig shuffles the timeline to focus on the characters' choices as adults. 7 p.m.

★***Dec. 28:* "Beauty and the Beast"** (Gary Trousdale & Kirk Wise, 1991). Disney animated romantic fantasy based on the French fairy tale about a loathsome Beast who must earn the love of a young woman in order to be transformed back into a prince. FREE; reservation requested at marquee-arts.org. 11 a.m.

★***Dec. 28:* "Chicago"** (Frank Urson & Cecil B. DeMille, 1927). Silent version of Maurine Dallas Watkins' 1926 play about a fame-obsessed housewife who kills her lover in cold blood. After trying to coerce her husband into taking the blame, she's put on trial for murder. With live accompaniment on the Barton organ. FREE; reservation requested at marquee-arts.org. 2 p.m.

***Dec. 31:* "When Harry Met Sally"** (Rob Reiner, 1989). Enduring, witty rom-com set in New York City about friends trying to avoid romantic complications. Billy Crystal, Meg Ryan. 5 p.m.

State Theatre. Film screenings every Wed.–Sun. Tickets $10.50 unless otherwise noted (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 and older, & U.S. veterans, $8.50; MTF members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. (734) 668–8397. For updated schedule, see marquee-arts.org/calendar.

***Dec. 1:* "Monster"** (Hirokazu Kore-eda, 2023). A single mother demands answers from her son's teacher when her son begins acting strangely. Followed by a discussion led by theater staff. Sponsored by the U-M Film, TV, and Media department. Japanese, subtitles. 10 a.m.

***Dec. 5 & 6.* "Earth's Greatest Enemy"** (Abby Martin & Mike Prysner, 2025). Documentary about how the U.S. military, as the world's largest polluter, impacts the environment while operating with minimal accountability. Followed by Q&A with Martin. 7 p.m. (Fri.) & 2 p.m. (Sat.).

★***Dec. 10:* "Catching the Sun"** (2015). Documentary about an unemployed American worker, a Tea Party activist, and a Chinese solar entrepreneur as they race to lead the clean-energy future. FREE with reservation at marquee-arts.org. 7 p.m.

***Dec. 12:* "The Green Knight"** (David Lowery, 2021). Fantasy retelling of the medieval romance about a guileless Arthurian knight who must mature to meet various dire challenges. Dev Patel. 9:30 p.m.

***Dec. 16:* "Paris Belongs to Us"** (Jacques Rivette, 1961). Mystery about a student who meets a group of people plagued by dark forces. French, subtitles. 7 p.m.

★**U-M LS&A Germanic Languages & Literatures.** FREE. 2435 North Quad, 105 S. State. The public is welcome to these campus screenings. Preregistration requested only for U-M students. lsa.umich.edu/german/news-events.

***Dec. 1:* "Gold"** (Thomas Arslan, 2013). German Western set during the height of the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush, when a group of Germans headed into the Yukon in search of gold discovers they are being stalked by a pair of ruthless killers. English, French, & German; subtitles. 6:30 p.m.

★**"In Silent Night": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** LaVonte L. Heard directs this popular local choir in Christmas spirituals, seasonal works by African American composers, and other holiday favorites. *4 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John. A. Woods Dr. Free; donations accepted. (734) 769–4437.*

★**"December Informance": Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra.** Music director Rodrigo Amorim leads small ensembles from this local student orchestra in performances of classical music and jazz and in demonstration of what they've learned. *4 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free (donations accepted). ypsiyouthorch.org.*

★**Open Mic Night: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** All acoustic musicians, storytellers, poets, and spoken word artists invited. Sign-up starts at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own nonalcoholic beverages. Tea, coffee, and water available. *6–9 p.m., Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley. Free. jonas@jewelheart.org, jewelheart.org.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 13 Saturday. 6 p.m.

Improv Jam: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Dec. 14 & 21.* All invited to participate in short-form improv games or long-form improv. No experience required. Spectators welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. Pay what you want. hello@heardotsay.com, heardotsay.com/events.*

15 MONDAY

★**Board Game Night: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & kids age 9 & up invited to play the library's board games, including Splendor, Outfoxed, Clue, Sushi Go, Azul, Dixit, Carcassonne, and Scrabble, or bring one to play from home. *5–7 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Heat Press Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults to use the AADL heat press to make a design using provided materials, then transfer it onto a provided tote bag, or bring a T-shirt or other fabric material to print on. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Neurodiverse Artmaking Drop-In": Riverside Arts Center. Neurodivergent people age 16 & up invited to a casual craft-making session. Supplies and instruction provided, though participants are welcome to create their own projects. Beverages provided; if you want, bring a labeled snack to share. *6–8 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. $5–10 suggested donation. info@riversidearts.org.*

16 TUESDAY

★**"Jane Austen's 250th Birthday Ball": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to this Regency England–themed ball. With English country dancing to live music from the **Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance,** a photo booth, and crafts. Costumes encouraged. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Mason Jar Sewing Kits": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to decorate mason jars to use as storage for sewing supplies and glue some quilt batting on the lid to use as a pin cushion. *6–7 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Polka Jam Session: American Legion Hall.** All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. *7–9 p.m., American Legion Hall, 44 Wabash St. (south off Main St.), Milan. Free. (734) 529–3903.*

★**French Canadian Music Session: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance.** All musicians invited to bring acoustic instruments to trade tunes and play the dance music of French Canada: jigs, reels, waltzes, and so-called "crooked" tunes from Quebec, Acadia, and the Métis traditions. Knowledge of French not required. Note temporary new location. *7–9 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Road. Free. frenchcanadianmusic@aactmad.org, aactmad.org/french-canadian-session.*

"The Nutcracker": World Ballet Company. This L.A.-based dance company presents Tchaikovsky's classic ballet in a production highlighted by 40 dancers, over 150 costumes, and elaborate, hand-painted sets. Ages 2 and up. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. $32–$95 in advance only at marquee-arts.org/live-events.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Steven Lorenz directs all the PHS student choirs—5 curricular and 5 extracurricular—in a wide variety of seasonal music TBA. *7:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. (734) 994–2189, ext. 2.*

The Moth StorySLAM: U-M Michigan Public. Open mic storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization. Ten storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3- to 5-minute story on the theme: "That's a Wrap!" Stories are judged by 3 people recruited from the audience. Winners compete in a semiannual GrandSLAM. Seating limited; arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Tickets $15 general admission in advance only at themoth.org beginning 3 weeks before event. patricia@themoth.org.*

17 WEDNESDAY

★**Winter Concert: The New Horizons Strings Orchestra.** Dan Long and Gabe Villasurda conduct this local amateur string ensemble in a program highlighted by a performance of Bach's lively Concerto in F for Oboe featuring Charleston (SC) Oboe Camp founder Elizabeth Tonorsky Knott, a Pioneer High School grad. Also, Piazzolla's tango nuevo Libertango, Grieg's popular Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, and works by Schubert, Rachmaninoff and John Williams. *1 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. tinyurl.com/a2-new-horizons-strings.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★**"Moms Night Inn": Stone Chalet/The Mamas Network.** All mothers invited for a relaxing night of coloring, crafts, and puzzles, along with the chance to connect with other mothers. Free childcare available. *6–9 p.m., Stone Chalet, 1917 Washtenaw. Free; donations accepted. (866) 382–6542.*

★**"A Cozy Christmas": St. Paul Ann Arbor.** Local singer-songwriter Blake Flattley and poet Tanner Olson lead an exploration of the Christmas season. *6:30 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 420 W. Liberty. Free. stpaulannarbor.org/news-and-eventscozy-christmas.*

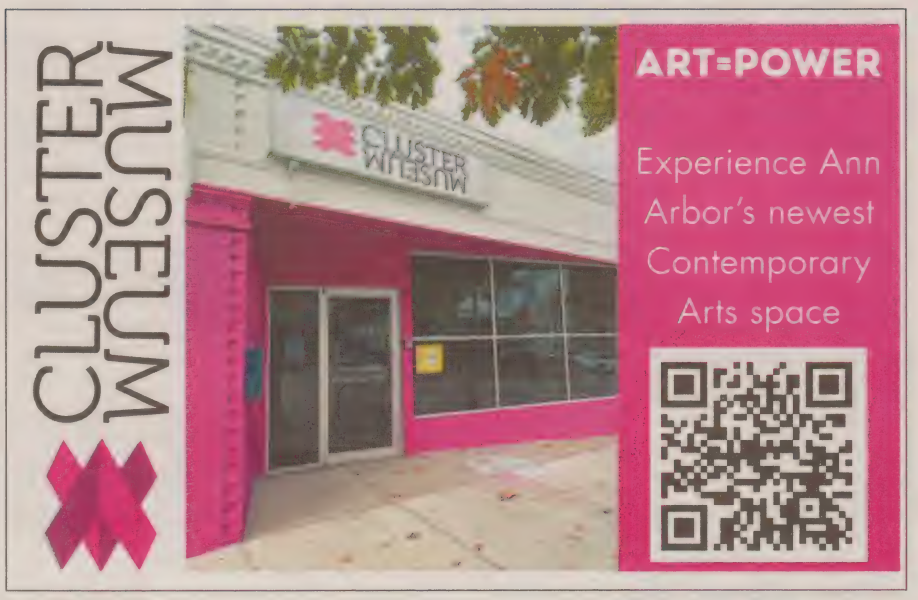
★**"Craft & Chat": Pittsfield Union Grange.** All invited to work on their knitting, crocheting, and other craft projects together. *7–9 p.m., Pittsfield Grange (use back door), 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. (734) 274–0773.*

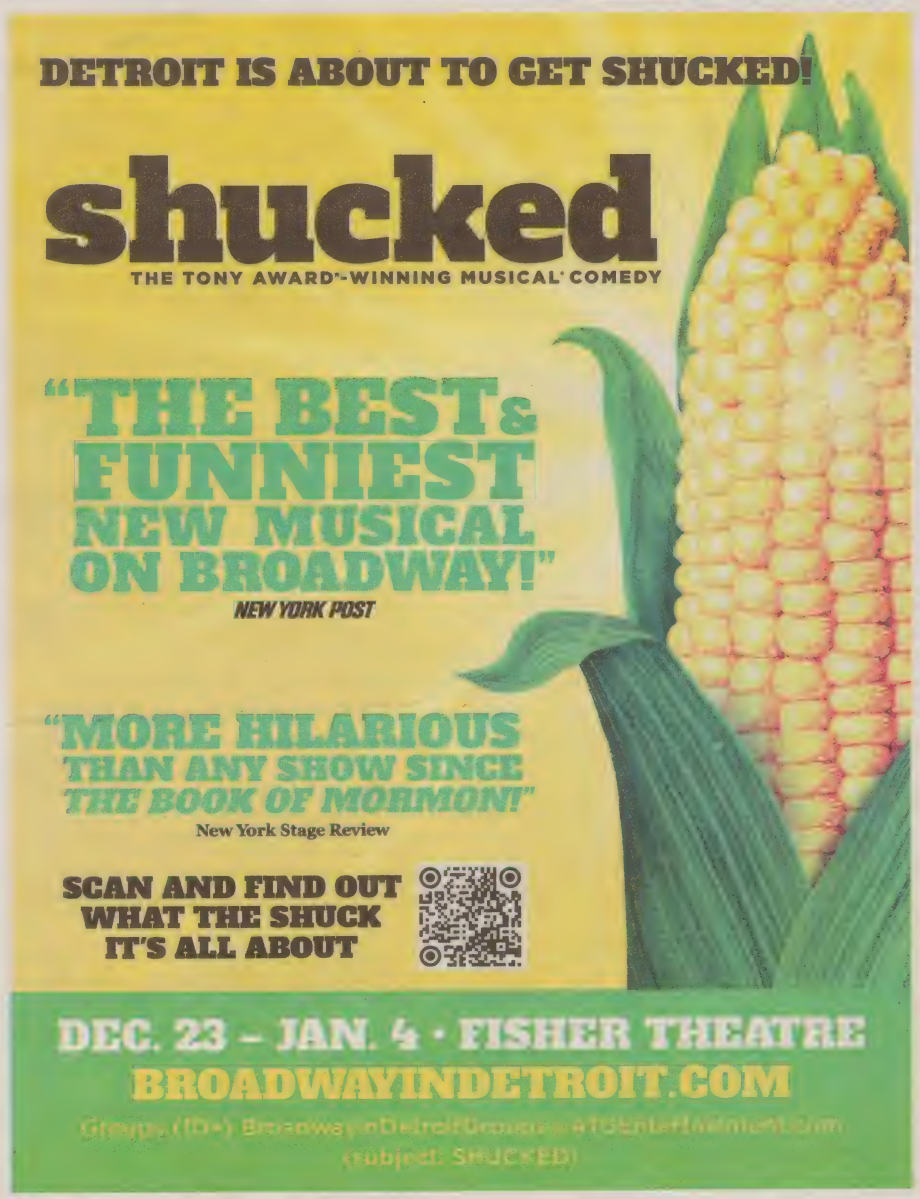
★**"Patricia Wants to Cuddle": Booksweet Bookshop Rainbows and Unicorns LGBTQ+ Book Club.** All invited to discuss Samantha Allen's 2022 satirical thriller about a reality dating show gone awry when a local queer person disrupts the heteronormative spectacle on a remote island. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 7:15 p.m.

18 THURSDAY

Ikebana International. All invited to learn about and practice this Japanese style of flower arranging. Floral materials provided upon request, bring your own container and tools (listed at ikebanaannarbor.org/programs). *1–3 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. $25. Space limited; preregistration required at*





★ *Denotes a free event*

a2ikebana@gmail.com.

★**"Decoupage Boxes & Vases": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to use old maps or magazine pictures to decorate a small vase or light switch cover. Bring paper items like cards, pictures, or newspapers, and an item to decorate if you like. *2–3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Third Thursdays at the Library": U-M Library.** Monthly open house featuring rotating highlights from the library's Special Collections Research Center, maps from the Clark Library, and items from other collections. Today's theme, **"A Few of Our Favorite Things,"** features displays of various staff favorites. Curators on hand to answer questions. *6th fl.:* Early 20th-century **marionette production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream,*** hand-colored plates of early 19th-century Paris, vintage Betty Crocker advertisements, pop-ups from Michigan paper engineer Robert Sabuda, and other items. *2nd fl.:* Atlases, panoramas, maps, and **globes with unusual backstories.** *1st fl.:* Various items from around the globe, including **ancient Peruvian textiles,** Jewish holiday cards, historical postcards from the Philippines, and Russian theater costumes. *4–6 p.m., Hatcher Library, enter from the Diag. Free. (734) 936–2309.*

★**"Block Print Cards": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** City environmental educator Eleva Potter leads adults age 18 & up in making simple print cards from provided materials. *5–7 p.m., Gallup Park Meeting Rm., 3000 Fuller. Free, preregistration required (space limited) at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★**"Intro to 3D Printing": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to learn about the library's 3D printing resources and basics of 3D design, then print an item to take home. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Pandora": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Susan Stokes-Chapman's 2022 historical novel, set in 1799 London, where the discovery of a mysterious ancient Greek vase sets in motion conspiracies, revelations, and romance. Light refreshments. *6–7 p.m., Kelsey Museum, rm. 125, 434 S. State. Preregistration required; see bit.ly/kelseybookclubdec25. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★**"Diabetes Innovation: From Breakthrough Research to Everyday Solutions": Ann Arbor District Library.** Caswell Diabetes Institute representatives discuss stem cell therapies, smart insulin delivery, and other innovations in diabetes treatment. *6–7 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Anthem for an Arbitrary Fixed Point": Cluster.** Seven writers gather at this new venue for artists & writers to read their own works reflecting on the closing of another year. *7–8:30 p.m., Cluster, 307 N. Main. Free. clustermuseum.org.*

"Christmas by Candlelight": Kerrytown Concert House. Local pianist and composer R. Mackenzie Lewis is joined by an ensemble of Michigan musicians for a candlelit evening of holiday and everyday favorites. With violinist Jan Sullins, cellist Jamie Gallupe, woodwind players Alex Toth and Harry McComb, guitarist Nicholas Martin, and bassist Joe Fee. *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $30–$40 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and*

kids calendar (ages 12 & under)

AADL: Ann Arbor District Library, (734) 327–4200, aadl.org. Events (all free) offered at **Downtown** (343 S. Fifth Ave.), **Westgate** (2503 Jackson Ave.), **Traverwood** (3333 Traverwood), **Malletts Creek** (3090 E. Eisenhower), and **Pittsfield** (2359 Oak Valley) branches, as well as the **AADL Warehouse** (265 Parkland Plz.).

HSHV: Humane Society of Huron Valley, (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org. 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. Events also hosted at **Tiny Lions** Lounge & Adoption Center (5245 Jackson Rd., ste. A1). hshv.org.

Daily, except Nov. 27, Nov. 21–Dec. 24. (most days 11 a.m.–8 p.m.; see website): **Santa: Briarwood Mall.** All kids invited to sit with Santa; photos available for purchase. A session for kids with special needs is held before the mall opens on Dec. 7, *9–10:30 a.m. Note: Santa takes a break 3–4 p.m. Briarwood Von Maur court. Appointments encouraged at simon.com/santa. (734) 769–9610.*

★*Every Mon.–Fri. (different times):* **Preschool Storytimes: AADL.** Half-hour program of stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (with caregiver). ***Pittsfield*** *(Mon. 10:30 a.m.),* ***Downtown*** *(Tues. 11 a.m.),* ***Malletts Creek*** *(Tues. 11 a.m. & Wed. 10:30 a.m., except Dec. 24),* ***Traverwood*** *(Thurs. 11 a.m., except Dec. 25), and* ***Westgate*** *(Fri. 1 p.m.).*

★*Every Mon.–Wed. & Fri. (different times):* **Playgroups for Babies: AADL.** Fifteen minutes of stories, rhymes, and songs led by AADL staffers, followed by a short open playtime. For kids up to 24 months (with caregiver). No older siblings. ***Malletts Creek*** *(Mon. 10:30 a.m.),* ***Traverwood*** *(Tues. 11 a.m.),* ***Westgate*** *&* ***Pittsfield*** *(Wed., except Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m.,), and* ***Downtown*** *(Fri. 10:30 a.m.).*

★*Dec. 1 (12:30–1:30 p.m.):* **"Little Play Date": AADL Westgate.** Open playtime for babies & preschoolers (with caregiver).

★*Every Tues. (10 a.m.–noon), every Wed. except Dec. 24 & 31 (4–5 p.m.), every Fri., except Dec. 26 (10 a.m.–noon), every Sun. (3–4 p.m.):* **"Nature Play Pop-Ups: Farm to Kitchen": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Kids ages 3–8 (accompanied by a parent or caregiver; older siblings welcome) invited to learn about nature and food and take part in hands-on craft and other activities in one of Matthaei Botanical Gardens' greenhouses. *MBG, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. (734) 647–7600, mbgna.umich.edu/nature-play-pop-ups.*

Dec. 3 & 17 (9:30–10:30 a.m.): **"Tiny Tails Toddler Time": Tiny Lions.** Stories, crafts, fingerplays, and interaction with adoptable cats. For kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult. *Tiny Lions. $10 per kid (babies under age 1, free). Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Dec. 3 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Stories & Snowflakes": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Environmental Education.** City environmental educator Eleva Potter leads kids ages 3–6 (younger siblings welcome) with adult accompaniment on a short walk to gather sticks, then make snowflakes with them. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. *Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free, preregistration required (space limited) at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec. epotter@a2gov.org.*

Dec. 4 & 18 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Toddler Time": HSHV.** Stories, crafts, & fingerplays. Also, interaction with adoptable cats and dogs and a chance to make a toy or treat for the animals. For kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult. *HSHV. $5 (babies under age 1, free). Space limited; preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

Dec. 5 (6–8 p.m.): **"Winter Wonderland Dance": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation.** Families with children ages 4-12 invited to dance to music spun by a DJ. Also, a balloon drop, refreshments, and crafts. *Pittsfield Twp. Community Center, 701 Ellsworth. $30 per adult/child pair (residents, $25; additional children, $10). Preregistration required at recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov. (734) 822–2120.*

Dec. 5 (7 p.m.) & 6 (10 a.m. & 2 p.m.): **"June on the Moon": EMU Theatre Department.** All ages 2 and up invited to the first public performance of this new musical, billed as a "sensory theatre work for neurodivergent audiences." The interactive production is led by a cast of actors and paraprofessionals who guide the audience on a mission to save the moon and its magical garden, and is designed for audiences of all ability levels. The 2 p.m. performance on Dec. 6 is accompanied by an **ASL shadow signed performance.** *EMU Sponberg Theatre, 124 Judy Sturgis Hill Bldg., 1030 E. Circle Dr., Ypsi. Tickets $6 in advance at emich.ludus.com & at the box office (10 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Fri.), and (if available) at the door. (734) 487–1849.*

Dec. 6 & 20 (10–11:30 a.m.): **"Rescue Reading": HSHV.** Kids ages 6–11 invited to work on their reading skills by reading to adoptable animals, using their own or provided books. Also, a group read-aloud and a dog meet-and-greet. No adults. *HSHV. $10. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Dec. 6 (10 a.m.–3 p.m.):* **"PlayLab: Printmaking": Ann Arbor Art Center (A2AC).** All kids ages 7–12 (10 a.m.–noon) and 13–17 (1–3 p.m.), accompanied by an adult, invited to design and print their own tote bags and original prints while learning the basics of color mixing, composition, and stencil design. *A2AC, 117 W. Liberty. Free, but preregistration required at annarborartcenter.org.*

★*Dec. 6 (10:15–11:15 a.m.):* **"Wee-Write with 826 Michigan": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids ages 5–8 invited to work in small groups with adult volunteers to write stories and play creative games.

★*Dec. 6 (1-2 p.m.):* **"Tracks on the Trails": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Environmental Education.** City environmental educator Eleva Potter leads kids in grades K–5, with adult accompaniment, on a short hike to look for animal tracks. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. *Mary Beth Doyle Park disc golf course, 3191 Chelsea Cir. Free; preregistration required (space limited) at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★*Dec. 6 (2–3:30 p.m.):* **"HEXBUG Adventures": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades K–5 invited to play with the library's robotic HEXBUGs in an interactive obstacle course.

★*Dec. 6 (2–3:30 p.m.):* **"Diorama-rama": AADL Traverwood.** A chance for kids ages 5–10 to create a fun piece of 3D art out of cardboard boxes, colorful paper, and a huge selection of other decorative items.

★*Dec. 6 (2–3 p.m.):* **"The Water Princess": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Read and Look.** A reading of Susan Verde's picture book about a girl who dreams of bringing clean water to her African village. Followed by a chance for kids ages 4–7 (accompanied by an adult) to explore the museum's collection to find items pictured in the book. *Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★*Dec. 6 (4–5 p.m.):* **Kids & Family Open Mic and Comedy Hour: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids ages 6–12 and family members invited to play a song or share a story or joke. *Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations accepted. (734) 662–8283.*

Dec. 7 (11 a.m.–4 p.m.): **"Santa, Mrs. Claus & the Grinch": Stone Chalet.** A chance for kids to meet Santa & Mrs. Claus, some elves, and a grumpy Grinch. Professional photos included. Hot chocolate served. *Stone Chalet, 1917 Washtenaw. Kids, $10 (adults, $8; infants 12 months & under, free) in advance at enchantedinnandevents.com & (if available) at the door. (866) 382–6542.*

Dec. 7 & 13. (Noon–6 p.m.): **"Santa at the Farm": Domino's Petting Farm.** Santa and Mrs. Claus are available for pictures in the farmhouse living room in front of the fireplace with cozy music, decorations, and treats. Bring your own camera. *Domino's Petting Farm, 3001 Earhart Rd. $35 per family; preregistration required at pettingfarm.com. (734) 998–0182.*

★*Dec. 7 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Low Waste Bird Feeders": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades preK–5 invited to make pine-cone bird cakes and cereal hoop feeders to hang outside for overwintering birds to eat.

★*Dec. 7 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Arabic Folktales for Children: Timeless Stories to Share in English and Arabic": AADL Malletts Creek.** Egyptian children's writer Hadil Ghoneim reads from her new bilingual collection of Arabic folktales. Aimed at kids grades preK–5.

★*Dec. 8 (5:30–7:30 p.m.):* **"Read-Aloud and Sing-Along: Ann Arbor Jewish Book Series.** Versatile writer-musician Jason Schachter McKinney reads from *Jason Belongs,* his new kids book about his life as a Jew of African heritage, and he leads a sing-along. Pizza dinner. All ages invited. *JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free, preregistration required at jlive.app/events/13577. (734) 971–0990, jccannarbor.org.*

★*Dec. 8, 10, & 11 (10:30–11 a.m., different branch locations):* **"Preschool ArtStart": AADL.** AADL staff lead children ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult, in arts and crafts, with an emphasis on the fun of it. **AADL Traverwood** (Mon.), **AADL Pittsfield** (Wed.), & **AADL Malletts Creek** (Thurs.).

Dec. 10 (6–7:30 p.m.): **"Stories with Santa": HSHV.** Kids age 10 & under, accompanied by an adult, invited to take part in holiday-themed activities, do crafts, and hear stories. Photos with Santa and a chance to play with adoptable cats and dogs. Refreshments. Holiday attire and a gift for resident animals encouraged (suggested gifts at hshv.org/wishlist). *HSHV. $12 per child (babies under age 1 and adults, free); limit of 2 adults per registered child). Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar, (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

Dec. 11 (7 p.m.): **"Holiday Hooray! with Phil and Erin Stead": Literati Bookstore.** This local husband-and-wife duo of illustrator Erin and writer Phil read A Snow Day for Amos McGee, the latest installment in their award-winning Amos McGee series. With live holiday music TBA, light refreshments, and a raffle. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Tickets $25 (includes admission for 1 adult & 1 kid, a signed copy of the book, and 1 raffle ticket; additional kid tickets, $6) in advance only at literatibookstore.com. (734) 585–5567.*

Dec. 12 (5:30–8:30 p.m.): **"Pets and Pajamas Movie Night": HSHV.** All kids ages 6–11 invited to watch an animal-themed movie and interact with adoptable pets. Cheese pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag & pillow. Call for movie selection. *HSHV. $35 per child. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3564, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Dec. 13 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Polar Express Storytime": Schuler Books.** Schuler staff read Chris Van Allsburg's 1985 Caldecott-winning picture book (the basis of the

(if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.

"2025 Winter Showcase": Randazzo Dance Company. *Dec. 18–20.* This local dance company performs 6 shows in a variety of dance styles, showcasing routines they have worked on throughout the year. For a complete schedule see randazzodance.com/winter-showcase-2025. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.), 5 p.m. (Fri.), and 1 & 4 p.m. (Sat.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Tickets $20/per show in advance at randazzodance.com and at the door. (734) 477–9350.*

Mike Stanley: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 18–20.* High-energy Chicago-based observational comic, originally from the Detroit area, whose act is sharp, coarse, and at times politically incorrect in Stanley's takes on politics, drugs, and sex. Preceded by opening acts TBA. Alcohol served. *7:15 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 (Thurs., $15) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

19 FRIDAY

★**Lunchtime Concert: U-M Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments.** U-M music students & faculty perform a wide range of music on period and replica instruments from around the globe. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, North Campus Research Complex bldg. 18, 2800 Plymouth Rd. Free. (734) 417–3899.*

★**"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, whatever. Maker Works members and staff on hand help with repairs. Handy people invited to assist. Repairs not guaranteed. Also, toy adaptations to make off-the-shelf toys more accessible for people with disabilities. *4–6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. Free. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2fix-it-fri. (734) 222–4911.*

"2025 Winter Showcase": Randazzo Dance Company. See 18 Thursday. 5 & 7 p.m.

★**"AADL World Famous Trivia": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staffers lead 2 rounds of trivia aimed at adults. Prizes. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"When Detroit Played the Numbers: Gambling's History and Cultural Impact on the Motor City": Ann Arbor District Library Author Event.** WSU anthropology professor **Felicia B. George** discusses her new book about early 20th-century underground gambling in Detroit. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Winter Solstice Campfire: Huron-Clinton Metroparks. Guided stargazing (if the sky is clear) and other fun activities (even if it is not) around a campfire, with sweet treats and hot cocoa. Includes a half-mile walk to the amphitheater. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $6 per person (kids under 2, free), plus $10 vehicle entry fee. Preregistration at tinyurl.com/hudson-solstice-12-25 required by 4 p.m. Dec. 18. (734) 426–8211.*

Candlelight Concert: Kalkaska String Quartet. See 6 Saturday. Tonight: **"Christmas Carols on Strings."** 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to try kirtan, an ancient yogic spiritual practice that involves singing and chanting. Accompanied by live music on tabla, harmonium, bass, the violin-like sarangi, and finger cymbals. The program ends with silent meditation and homemade chai tea. *7 p.m., Prana Yoga Studio, 5060 Jackson Rd. Free; donations accepted. (734) 476–2621.*

★**"An Organist's Christmas": American Guild of Organists.** Local organists TBA present a festive program of Christmas music on the church's impressive LeTourneau pipe organ, with a sing-along of favorite Christmas tunes. *7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2250 E. Stadium. Free; donations accepted. (734) 769–2550.*

"A Solstice Show": Hearth & Hymn. The show begins with a solstice grounding ritual (7:15 p.m.), led by ritual facilitator Anna Lemler. Followed by performances by the local guitar duo **Alex Belhaj & Erik McIntyre** (7:30 p.m.), whose intimate swinging acoustic instrumental music is inspired by early 20th-century jazz records, and **Hearth & Hymn** (8:30 p.m.), the close-harmony minimalist neo-folk duo of multi-instrumentalists Samantha Cooper and Elisabeth Pixley-Fink, who are joined tonight by singer-songwriter **Charlie Millard.** Part of the proceeds go to the Palestine Grassroots Distribution Project. *7 p.m., Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill St. Tickets $20 (age 4 & under, free) in advance at hearthandhymn.com/store and (if available) at the door.*

"The Nutcracker": iBallet Studio. *Dec. 19 & 20.* This production of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet features professional dancers from top ballet companies in the principal roles of Clara, Nutcracker Prince, and Uncle Drosselmeyer, backed by iBallet Studio (Novi) student dancers. Recorded music. *7 p.m. (Fri.) and 1 & 6 p.m. (Sat.). Power Center. Tickets $29–$40 in advance at mutotix.umich.edu & (if available) at the door.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Mike Stanley: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

★**"Sixty Years Searching for Comets": University Lowbrow Astronomers Monthly Meeting.** Talk by Canadian amateur astronomer **David Levy.** In 1993, he codiscovered Shoemaker-Levy 9, a comet that would eventually collide spectacularly with Jupiter in 1994. *7:30 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. (734) 975–3248.*

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Theme Park": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Stand-up comedy on a theme TBA by area comics. *9:30–10:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

20 SATURDAY

★**"Art & Culture & Coffee Cafe": Cluster.** Panel discussion on the topic "if we go, we go together" by artists who have work included in the gallery's current invitational show (see Galleries). Coffee from local roasters. *11 a.m., Cluster, 307 N. Main. Free. clustermuseum.org.*

★**"Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to play this popular Nintendo Switch video game. Participants may bring their own Switch handheld consoles or borrow one from the library. Prizes for top finishers. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"The Nutcracker": iBallet Studio. See 19 Friday. 1 & 6 p.m.

"2025 Winter Showcase": Randazzo Dance Company. See 18 Thursday. 1, 4, & 7 p.m.

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Winter Solstice Sing-Along": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Holiday-themed candlelit sing-along led by Lori Fithian. Kids welcome. *3–4:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free; donations accepted. (734) 426–7818.*

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO music director Earl Lee leads the orchestra in a program of family-friendly carols and holiday hits, including music from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and works by Bizet, Prokofiev, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Leroy Anderson, and others. The orchestra is joined by rising young Detroit-based jazz composer-vocalist **Olivia Van Goor,** as well as by the popular large local men's chorus **Measure for Measure.** *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $15–$90 (discounts for seniors & students) in advance at a2so.com & the AASO office (35 Research Dr., ste. 100), and (if available) at the door. (734) 994–4801.*

Mike Stanley: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Grange. John Clark calls to music by Myron Grant & the Funky Elf Orchestra. Bring clean shoes for dancing. Beginners' intro at 7 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Union Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10–$15 suggested donation (pay what you can). (734) 274–0773.*

"Beyond Christmas: A Musical Celebration of Light, Hope, and Community": Beyond Choir. EMU choral director Brandon Johnson conducts his local professional vocal ensemble in a program of classic and modern holiday music TBA. *7:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsi. Tickets $20 at beyondchoir.org/christmas (use promo code JOY5 for $5 off) and at the door. (734) 203–0753, info@beyondchoir.org.*

Improv with Fustercluck & Friends: Hear. Say Brewing + Theater. Performance by an ensemble of 4 experienced improvisers. *7:30–8:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $12 (if available) at the door. $20 ($23 at door) includes the 8:30 Saturday Night Improv show (see 6 Sat. listing). hello@heardotsay.com.*

21 SUNDAY (WINTER SOLSTICE)

★**"Chesstastic": Ann Arbor District Library**. Adults and kids age 5 & up invited

popular 2004 animated film) about a young boy who's welcomed aboard a magical train to the North Pole on Christmas Eve. Also, a chance to make holiday-themed crafts. Kids get a free cup of hot cocoa and a silver bell to take home. *Schuler Books, Westgate shopping center, Free; preregistration requested at schulerbooks.com/events-ann-arbor. (734) 662–0600.*

★*Dec. 14 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"LEGO Connection": AADL Westgate.** Kids grades K–5 invited to play with AADL LEGO blocks.

★*Dec. 14 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Paper Bag Penguins": AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades preK–5 to make a penguin puppet using a paper bag and easy precut paper shapes.

★*Dec. 15 (7–7:30 p.m.):* **"Not That Kind of Princess Story": AADL Malletts Creek.** AADL staff tell stories featuring unexpected princesses. Aimed at kids grades preK–2.

★*Dec. 16 (1–11:45 p.m.):* **"Young Scientists": AADL Traverwood.** Science-themed stories and simple science experiments for preschoolers accompanied by a caregiver.

Dec. 17 (9–10 a.m.): **"Holiday Extravaganza": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation.** Kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult, invited to make winter-themed crafts, engage in guided play, and have snacks. *Pittsfield Twp. Community Center, 701 Ellsworth. $15 (Pittsfield residents, $10) per child. Preregistration required by Dec. 10 at recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov. (734) 822–2120.*

Dec. 19 (7:15–8:45 p.m.): **"Cats & Kids": Tiny Lions. Kids ages 6–11 (unaccompanied by an** adult) invited to spend time with adoptable cats and kittens. Also, crafts & games, popcorn, and juice. *Tiny Lions. $20. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Dec. 20 (11–11:45 a.m.):* **"Dancing Babies": AADL Westgate.** A program of music and movement for infants and kids age 5 & under (accompanied by an adult).

★*Dec. 20 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Circus Anatomy with Poppet": AADL Downtown.** Detroit-area dancer and contortionist Poppet leads a program for kids grades K–5 exploring how muscles, joints, and bones function together to create movements.

★*Dec. 20 (3–4 p.m.):* **"SpongeBob Party": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades preK–5 invited to make SpongeBob-themed crafts and listen to music from this popular Nickelodeon cartoon.

★*Dec. 20 (3–4 p.m.):* **"Sparkle Penguins": AADL Pittsfield.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make penguins using glittery craft foam and other crafting supplies.

★*Dec. 21 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Bluey Party": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades preK–5 invited for games and crafts to celebrate the popular kids show.

★*Dec. 21 (1–2 p.m.):* **"DIY Stamps": AADL Pittsfield.** A chance for kids grades preK–5 to use foam shapes to make their own rubber stamps.

★*Dec. 22 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Paint a Snake": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to paint a wooden toy snake.

★*Dec. 23 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Mixed-Media Circle Collage Inspired by Howardena Pindell": AADL Westgate.** Kids grades K–8 invited to punch paper circles, then layer them with other colorful materials to create a collage in the style of this American mixed-media artist.

★*Dec. 23 (1–1:45 p.m.):* **Magic Show: AADL Downtown.** A2 Magic owner Jeff Wawrzaszek performs a magic show for kids grades K–5.

Dec. 26–Jan. 4 (times TBA): **"Hands-On Holidays": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Family-friendly hands-on activities TBA exploring science and nature. With live entertainment each day, including puppet shows, music, and storytelling by performers TBA. Details posted early in December at discoverscienceandnature.org. *AAHOM, 220 E. Ann St. $16/person (members & those with WIC EBT cards, $3/person).*

★*Dec. 26 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Snowy Pictures": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades preK–3 invited to draw a snowy-day picture using chalk and construction paper.

★*Dec. 27 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Pipe Cleaner Sculptures": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make all kinds of unique sculptures using pipe cleaners.

★*Dec. 27 (noon–1:30 p.m.):* **"Origami for Beginners": AADL Westgate.** A chance for kids age 6 & up to learn how to fold basic origami pieces.

★*Dec. 28 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Dinosaur Dig Site": AADL Downtown.** Kids grades K–5 invited to use tools to excavate a simulated paleontology dig for toy dinosaur skeletons and real fossils.

★*Dec. 30 (2–3:30 p.m.):* **"LEGO Fun Day": AADL Downtown.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to play with AADL LEGO blocks.

★*Dec. 30 (2–3:30 p.m.):* **"Pipe Cleaner Jellyfish Light": AADL Westgate.** Kids grade 3 & up invited to make a hanging jellyfish light by using colorful pipe cleaners and an LED light.

★*Dec. 31 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Noon Year's Eve Celebration": AADL Downtown.** New Year's celebration for kids grades preK–5.

★ *Denotes a free event*

to drop in and play chess. All skill levels welcome. Instruction not provided. Chess sets provided. *1–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Mario Kart Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to compete in a tournament format of this popular Nintendo Switch video game. Participants may bring their own Switch handheld console or borrow one from the library. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**3D Printing Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to print an item to take home after learning about the library's 3D printing resources and the basics of 3D design. *1–5 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Loving Kindness Crafters": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** All invited to bring crafts to work on, socialize, and share knowledge. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley. Free. programs@jewelheart.org. jewelheart.org.*

★**Michigame Design Lab Game Playtesting: Bløm Mead + Cider.** All invited to try out new board and card games from local designers and provide feedback. *2–6 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Norma & Wanda": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Pom-Pom Ice Cream Cones": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids grade K & up invited to use pom-poms and felt to create ice cream cone decorations. *3–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and a handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. (734) 663–0518, standrewsaa.org.*

Winter Solstice Celebration: Kerrytown Concert House. Local composer-pianist **Kathryn Goodson** is joined by Chicago baritone **Robert Sims,** tenor **George Shirley,** flutist **Abigail Middaugh,** and cellist **Thor Sigurdson** for a program of music in honor of the darkest night of the year. Highlighted by Lena McLin's arrangement of the spiritual "Hold Out Your Light," the program also includes works by Roland Hayes, Rachmaninoff, Schubert, Arvo Pärt, Goodson herself, and more. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $30–$40 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

★**Clay Chinese Guardian Lions: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to drop in and make a Chinese lion figurine out of air-dry clay. *Led by local artist Lyla Wang. 5–6:30 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Lantern-Lit Solstice Walk": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Half-hour self-guided nature walk through woods along a paved path (unplowed in case of snow) lit with luminaries and lanterns. A bonfire with hot cocoa and s'mores follows. Dog walkers welcome. Dress for the weather. *6–8:30 p.m. (arrival by 7:30 p.m. required), Independence Lake County Park Beach Center Pavilion, 3200 Jennings, Whitmore Lake. $15 per household (up to 4 people). Preregistration required (registration #IL431310) at parksonline.ewashtenaw.org. $6 (nonresidents, $10) vehicle entry fee. (734) 449–4437.*

★**Winter Solstice Celebration: Michigan Friends Center.** All invited to join a circle of people for singing and silence to celebrate the year's longest night. The program is too quiet for most young children. Dress for the weather, and bring a flashlight. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clark Lake Rd. (off Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Free, donations accepted. Preregistration requested at manager@mfcenter.org. mfcenter.org.*

★**Terry Farmer & the Change of Pace Band: First Congregational Church.** Ensemble led by Farmer, a longtime Detroit-area singer-songwriter and guitarist who spent 2 years as lead guitarist for Jan & Dean, cofounded the chamber folk group Cairn to Cairn, and taught classical guitar at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Tonight's show features classic and folk Christmas tunes in bluesy arrangements. *7 p.m., FCC, 608 E. William. Free; donations accepted. (734) 662–1679.*

22 MONDAY

★**"Pom Pom Pom": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids grade K & up invited to learn how to make pom-poms. *11 a.m.–noon, AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"The Secret Code of Comics": Ann Arbor District Library.** Award-winning Michigan cartoonist Meggie Ramm shares tips on how to use lines to create motion and emotion in comics. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

23 TUESDAY

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

24 WEDNESDAY
(CHRISTMAS EVE)

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Outdoor nativity with sheep, a camel, and other live animals, along with actors dressed as Mary & Joseph. Followed by a **family Christmas pageant** (5:30 p.m.) and a **candlelight service** (8 p.m.). *4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. (734) 662–1679.*

★**Lessons & Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** A traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carol singing led by the church's chancel choir. Also, a **candlelight service** (11 p.m.). *5 & 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. firstpresbyterian.org, (734) 662–4466.*

★**"Lessons & Carols": Northside Community Church.** Traditional English service in which scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. Concludes with a candlelit singing of "Silent Night." Families welcome. *6 p.m., NCC, 929 Barton Drive. Free. (734) 649-7948, kgoodson@umich.edu.*

★**Lessons & Carols: St. Paul Lutheran Church.** A traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carol singing led by the church's choir. *6:30 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 420 W. Liberty. stpaulannarbor.org.*

★**Festival of Lessons & Carols: First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor.** Traditional Christmas service modeled on the world-famous carol service from King's College in Cambridge, England, that tells the Nativity story through readings with carols and hymns sung by the church choir and accompanied on organ. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington (handicap access on Washington entrance). Free. fbca2.org, (734) 663–9376.*

★**Lessons & Carols: First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti.** A program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing. *9 p.m., First Presbyterian, 300 N. Washington, Ypsi. Free. (734) 482–1525, fpcy.org.*

★**Christmas Eve Music: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir in a performance of Margaret Burk's This Holy Hour, a 2023 cycle of her carols loosely modeled on Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols, itself inspired by medieval texts and music. Detroit Opera Orchestra principal harpist **Juan Riveros** accompanies. Followed at 9:30 p.m. by a Christmas Eve service. *9 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. (734) 663–0518.*

25 THURSDAY
(CHRISTMAS DAY)

26 FRIDAY

Rob Haze: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 26–28.* Atlanta-based comedian, writer, and podcaster with a deadpan delivery whose act covers a range of topics from history to plagiarism and what your favorite dinosaur says about you. Preceded by opening acts TBA. Alcohol served. *7:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), & 7 p.m. (Sun.). 212 S. Fourth Ave. $21 (Sun., $18) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Dec. 26–31.* Purple Rose founder & playwright Daniels is a veteran movie, TV, & Broadway star who's also a prolific singer-songwriter. He's returning to Purple Rose for a series of concerts showcasing folk-flavored, often comically accented favorites from his ever-growing back catalog, likely including numbers from his most recent release *Alive and Well Enough. 8 p.m. (Dec. 26, 29, & 30), 3 & 8 p.m. (Dec. 27 & 31), and 2 p.m. (Dec. 28). Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $125–$150 in advance at purplerosetheatre.org and by phone, and (if available) at the door. Usually sells out quickly. No discounts available. (734) 433–7673.*

27 SATURDAY

★**"Owl Aboard": Ann Arbor District Library.** Michigan Avian Experience representatives show live owls and discuss the many adaptations that allow them to survive in the wild. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Know Obstacles Open Mic & Comedy Hour: Oz's Music Environment.** Performers of all abilities invited to play instruments, sing songs, and tell jokes with members of this band comprised of kids and adults with special needs. Hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osborn. Spectators welcome. *4–5 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations accepted. (734) 662–8283.*

Candlelight Concert: Kalkaska String Quartet. See 6 Saturday. Tonight: **"Christmas Carols on Strings."** 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.

Rob Haze: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Friday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

28 SUNDAY

★**Collage Making: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids age 5 & up invited to make collages out of old magazines. *Noon–2 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"TriviaTime! with Katie and Abbie: Star Wars": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids age 5 & up invited to answer *Star Wars* trivia questions. Prizes. *2–3 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Drag Bingo": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to play a fun-filled round of bingo hosted by local drag queen Jadein Black. Prizes. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. See 5 Friday. 2 p.m.

Rob Haze: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Friday. 7 p.m.

Musical Improv Jam: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. All invited to sing or move in musical/comical improv games and exercises, led by a facilitator and accompanist. No experience required. Spectators welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. Pay what you want. hello@heardotsay.com, heardotsay.com/events.*

29 MONDAY

★**"Easy Beaded Snowman Keychain": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & kids grade K & up invited to use pony beads to make a snowman keychain. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Perfectly Paired: Bubbles & Cheese": Zingerman's Deli. All age 21 & up invited to a guided tasting of 3 sparkling wines paired with cheese and other accompaniments. *5:30–6:30 p.m., Zingerman's Deli, 422 Detroit St. $50. Preregistration required at zingermansdeli.com/events. (734) 663–3354.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 8 p.m.

30 TUESDAY

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 8 p.m.

31 WEDNESDAY
(NEW YEAR'S EVE)

★**Noon Years Eve Party: Stone Chalet.** This family-friendly Cinderella-themed New Year's Eve party features crafts, dancing, and a juice toast. With a countdown and balloon drop at noon. Costumes encouraged. *11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Stone Chalet, 1917 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested at enchantedinnandevents.com. (866) 382–6542.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"NYE 2025 Comedy Showdown": Moveable Feast Catering. Comedy show headlined by Detroit comic **Billy Ray Bauer,** who uses a fine repertoire of voices and dialects to tell fresh, lively stories, often drawn from his experiences as the father of four boys. Opener: **Ned Rice,** a Detroit native and Emmy-nominated joke writer for the likes of Jay Leno, Bill Maher, and Joan Rivers. Ticket price includes dinner, appetizers, and a glass of champagne or sparkling cider. *4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m., Revel Run Event Center, 555 S. Dancer Rd., Chelsea. $100 (4:30 p.m. show), $125 (8:30 p.m. show) in advance only at Moveablefeastspecialevents.com.*

New Year's Eve Dinner & English Country Dance Party: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Traditional English dancing to live music by Brad Battey, Matt McCoy, and Judi Morningstar, with a cavalcade of callers. Dancing is preceded by a social hour (5:30 p.m.) and a potluck dinner (6:30 p.m.). Ham provided; bring a dish or dessert to share. BYOB. *8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. $20 at the door only. aactmad.org.*

"New Year's Eve with Pete Siers": Kerrytown Concert House. A jazz trio led by veteran local drummer Siers presents its annual NYE concert. With clarinetist Dave Bennett and pianist Cliff Monear. *8:30–10:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $55–$90 (students, $35–$70) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

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2225 STEEPLECHASE, ANN ARBOR—This Churchill Downs Colonial rests on a wonderful, private lot and has been nicely updated and perfectly maintained to create one of the finest options on the market today. You will love living in this popular Westside neighborhood within walking distance to Lawton Elementary and very close to the U of M Stadium, Downtown Ann Arbor, and U of M Central Campus. The setting is fantastic with mature trees and landscaping creating a wonderful backyard oasis. The interior sparkles. Highlights include a welcoming foyer entrance, open concept floor plan, family room with fireplace, breakfast nook, spacious kitchen with tons of cabinet space, formal dining room, and a light-filled formal living room. The upper level of the home includes a great primary bedroom suite with an attached bath and ample closet space. There are also three spacious additional bedrooms with a 2nd full bath. The finished walkout basement includes a large recreation room, laundry room, office, and storage. HERD score is 4. $499,900. MLS# 25050666.

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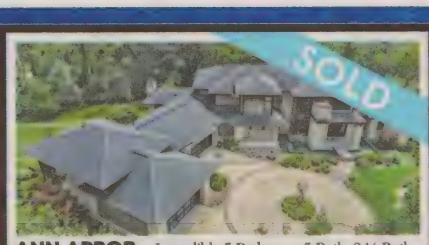
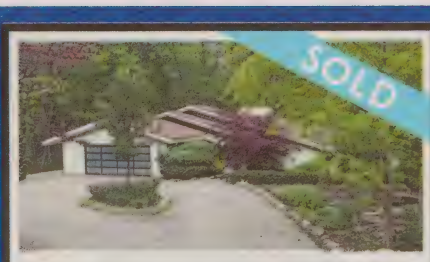


ANN ARBOR – Incredible 5-Bedroom, 5-Bath, 2 ½-Bath, Frank Lloyd Wright inspired, custom built home on a wooded 3-acre lot overlooking the Huron River Valley. The Prairie Modern style home was built with only the finest in Design, Materials, and Craftsmanship. No expense was spared to create one of the most incredible homes in Ann Arbor. Highlights include two story living room, gourmet kitchen, heated screened porch, luxury primary bedroom suite, finished walk-out lower level, and 8 car garage. $4,500,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

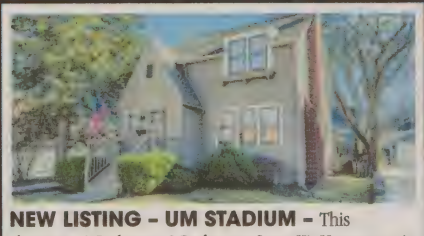


NICHOLS ARBORETUM FRONTAGE – This stunning 5-Bedroom, 4 ½-Bath Mid-Century Modern inspired home features panoramic views of The Arb and has been meticulously updated throughout. The architectural details of this home are spectacular. Highlights include expansive Great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, custom kitchen with quartz counter, luxury primary bedroom suite, and finished walkout lower level. $1,600,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Incredible Metcalf design Mid-Century Modern home in the Heart of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhood. This 5-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath home rests on a private lot featuring mature trees and extensive landscaping. The interior features dramatic MCM architecture at every turn. Highlights include living room with fireplace and 11' ceilings, raised balcony, fantastic dining room, primary bedroom suite with private bath, and finished lower level. $1,350,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Incredible custom built 4-Bedroom, 6-Bath southern Colonial on a spectacular 1.1 acre wooded lot in York Township. This setting is gorgeous with mature oak trees, large deck, patio, and welcoming front porch. The interior is loaded with quality finishes. Highlights include custom kitchen with granite counters, family room with fireplace, den, luxury primary bedroom suite, 2nd floor bonus room, and finished walkout basement. $1,250,000 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

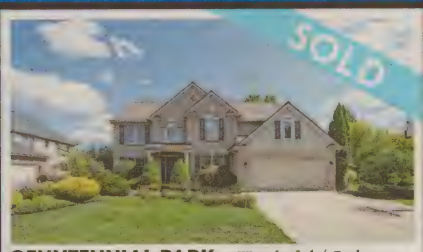
STONEBRIDGE – This completely updated custom built 4-Bedroom, 4 ½-Bath Colonial rests on one of the most premium lots in the neighborhood. You will love the almost one acre wooded lot on a quiet cul-de-sac street. Highlights include updated kitchen with painted white cabinets, open concept family room, oversized 3 season sun room, incredible back hall mud room, and finished basement. $975,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING – UM STADIUM – This charming 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Sears Kit Home rests in the shadow of Michigan Stadium and is located an easy walk to Downtown Ann Arbor. The home is loaded with high character touches of the ear and features wonderful modern updates. Highlights include all hardwood floors throughout, living room with fireplace, updated kitchen, spacious bedrooms, updated main bath, and finished basement. Large backyard for football tailgates. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NORTH OAKS VILLA – Perfect 3-Bedroom, 3 ½-Bathroom condo in one of the areas most desired condominiums. This unit is on premium setting overlooking protected common area. The interior is in like-new condition and feature hardwood floor throughout the main level, open concept kitchen with designer cabinets, quartz counters, and stainless steel appliances, open concept great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury main-level primary bedroom, and partially finished lower level. $729,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LOGAN ELEMENTARY – This 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bathroom two story home in north east Ann Arbor is completely updated and simply gorgeous. The home rests deep within the neighborhood on a gorgeous lot with mature trees, extensive landscaping, and large deck. The interior sparkles. Features include hardwood floor throughout, updated kitchen with updated cabinets and granite counters, open concept family room with vaulted ceiling, first floor study/4th bedroom, and fantastic primary bedroom suite. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



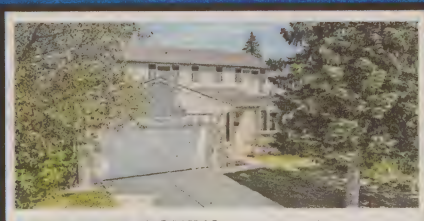
CENNTENNIAL PARK – Wonderful 4 Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath Colonial walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. The setting is fantastic and feature extensive landscaping, patio, and large backyard. The interior includes a dramatic two-story great room, open concept kitchen with large eating space, first floor den, great primary bedroom suite, and finished basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

KING SHOOL – This 3-Bedroom, 3-Bath Mid-Century Modern Ranch is a rare find in this location and simply stunning. The home rests on a quiet corner lot with great landscaping and private backyard. The "Lester Fader" home was wonderfully planned and perfectly modernized to create a real "Gem". Highlights include spacious living room, updated kitchen with granite counters, oversized dining area, two studies, and a wonderful primary bedroom suite with dressing room and updated bath. $689,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LANSDOWNE – This wonderful 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath Colonial features one of the best backyard settings you will see with large deck, mature trees, extensive landscaping, and fenced yard. The interior is fantastic and features newly refinished hardwood floor throughout, updated kitchen with granite counter tops, family room with fireplace, spacious formal living and dining rooms, and wonderful primary bedroom with attached bath. $679,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

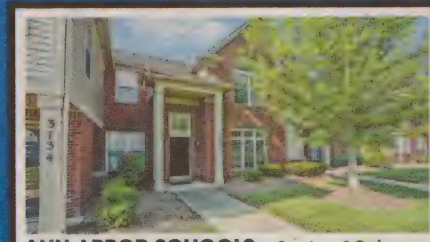
CANTON – Rare find!! This 3-Bedroom, 2-Bath Ranch sits on a spectacular 10-acre parcel in the heart of this metro area. You will love the private secluded setting that includes a 30 x 40 pole barn with large fenced area and the mature woods backing to Fellows Creek Golf Club. The home features a welcoming living room, spacious kitchen, flex-use family room that could be a primary bedroom suite, and oversized garage. $595,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SLOAN PLAZA CONDO – Enjoy living with the closest proximity to UM Central Campus, UM Hospital, and Downtown Ann Arbor from this fantastic 1-Bedroom, 1-Bath condo. This unit is highlighted by panoramic views of the Huron River valley and an easy living floorplan. The condo features tons of natural light, a large living room with fireplace, nook that makes a perfect home office, nice kitchen space, and a primary bedroom suite with tons of closet space. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CHURCHILL DOWNS – Fabulous 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bathroom Colonial located in one of Ann Arbor's most popular West Side neighborhoods. You will love living just minutes from UM Stadium, Central Campus, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home features a wonderful private lot with great landscaping and complete privacy. Interior highlights include updated flooring on the main level, open concept family room with fireplace, great kitchen with tons of cabinets, and finished walkout basement $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CHELSEA – This 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bathroom colonial in Chelsea Fairways is simply fantastic! The location is perfect just minutes to Downtown Chelsea and quick access to I-94. The home backs to neighborhood common area and features a great backyard and large deck. Interior highlights include an open concept living room, large kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, wonderful primary bedroom suite, and walkout basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS – Spacious 2-Bedroom, 2-Bath Condo in Pittsfield Township just minutes to all freeways and UM Campus locations. The condo is in Roseford Village with a fantastic community pool. This easy living condo features Great Room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open concept kitchen, large dining area, wonderful primary bedroom suite with attached bath and walk-in closet, and 2nd bedroom and bath. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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I needed A LOT of help selling my brother's house in Ann Arbor after he passed away. Living 2 hours away, I felt completely overwhelmed but Barbara guided me through every step with compassion and expertise. Thanks to her, the house sold quickly at a great price. If I could give Barbara more than 5 stars, I would. She truly was my hero at a time when I needed one. -Kristen G.

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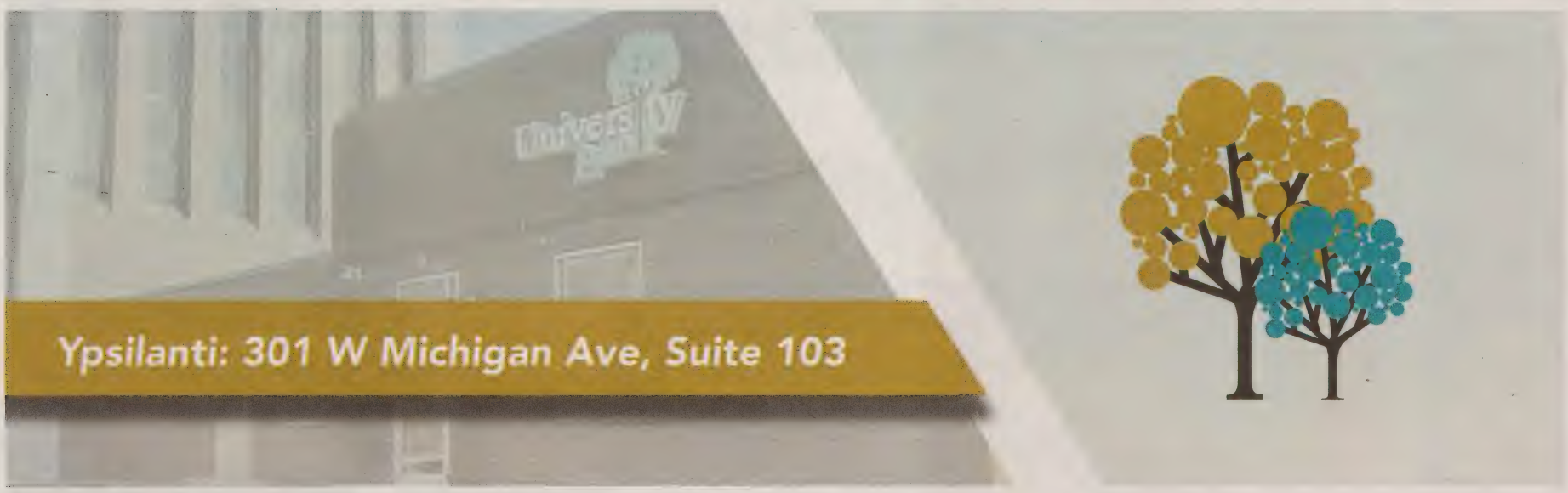

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2559 Timber Glen Drive, Ann Arbor
4BD, 3BA w/ wood floors, soaring ceilings, stone gas fireplace, chef's kitchen, sunroom, loft, first-floor office/bedroom, finished patio, and 2.5-car garage. Space for family & entertaining. $755,000. Michelle Berkland Shulman. 734-730-4827.

3093 Overridge Drive, Ann Arbor
A2 Hills on private wooded .49 lot. 3,144 SF of meticulously maintained space. Updated kitch., big primary suite 4 BD, 3 BA, family room w/wet bar. Private bluestone patio, heated garage. $1,199,000. Jean Wedemeyer. 734-604-2523.

1704 Shadford Road, Ann Arbor
Burns Park gem. All brick colonial w/2454 SF w/4 BR, 2.5 baths. Updates inc/ primary suite, electrical,plumbing, generator, quartz counters, gutters, driveway. 2 car garage & fenced yard. $1,135,000. Jean Wedemeyer. 734-604-252.

2230 Chaucer Drive, Ann Arbor
Custom home near Michigan Stadium! 3–4BR, 2.5BA w/ soaring ceilings, 1st-flr primary suite, open living spaces, study, deck & private tree-lined yard—elegant design in a prime location. $850,000. Brent Flewelling. 734-646-4263.

6756 Fleming Creek Drive, Superior Twp.
4BD, 3.5BA Arbor Hills brick colonial on wooded acre with chef's kitchen, bright family room, grand staircase, Jack & Jill bath, updated hardwood, and whole-house generator. $975,000. Barbara Eichmuller. 734-645-9054.

588 Green Road, Ann Arbor
Spacious hilltop home backing to Narrow Gauge Park with gourmet kitchen, two-story family room with fireplace, formal dining, study, and luxurious primary suite with spa bath and deck. $1,250,000. Judie Wu. 734-546-6140.

7052 Black Cherry Lane, Saline
Gallery Pointe Eeyton Model. 6 MO. till completion. 3 BD, 4 BA w/ gourmet kitchen, vaulted 1st-floor Primary suite, study, loft, finished lower level, screened deck, private backyard. $700,565. Julie Picknell. 734-395-8383.

9001 Yorkshire Drive, Saline
Exceptional 4BD in Yorkshire Hills! Set on a private 1-acre lot, this light-filled home features hardwood floors, updated kitchen, vaulted family room, deck w gazebo, 3-car garage + bonus detached garage. $650,000. Nancy Bishop. 734-646-1333.

3928 Steamboat Court, Ann Arbor
Lake Forest Highlands 4BR, 3.5BA on private cul-de-sac lot backing to nature! Features updated kitchen, vaulted primary suite, finished basement w/bar, new deck & outdoor fireplace. Ann Arbor Schools! $650,000.Scott Guyor. 734-904-1900

5140 Turtle Point Drive, Ann Arbor
Incredible private estate with 3 custom homes, full rec center, indoor pool, sports court, spa, greenhouse, and more. Nearly 10,000 SF main home inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright—an unmatched retreat. $8,750,000. Brent Flewelling. 734-646-4263.

5401 Pinnacle Court, Ann Arbor
Beautiful unit at Stonebridge 2BD, 2.5BA condo on premium lot with golf course & pond views, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, deck, main-level primary suite, finished lower level, and flexible office/den. $799,000. Lyla Icaza. 734-678-3863.

7124 Black Cherry Lane, Saline
Gallery Pointe Belford. Still time to customize! 4 BD, 3.5 BA w/ gourmet kitchen, great room, 1st-floor primary suite, study, loft, finished walkout LL, screened deck, premium site w/ nature views. $899,194. Julie Picknell. 734-395-8383.

2891 Gale Road, Ann Arbor
Price improvement on this Architectural gem on 4 acres! 5BD, 6BA w/ 4 car garage, updated kitchen, vaulted family room, patios, & renovated barn. Space, privacy and charm with low township taxes! $1,695,000. Rhonda Lore Cloutier. 850-685-7065.

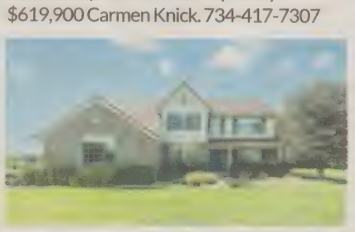
720 Risdon Trail S, Saline
Stunning new construction 3BR, 2.5BA on premium lot w/ no rear neighbors. Features $100K+ in upgrades, chef's kitchen, sunroom, loft, office, & daylight basement. Modern style meets serene privacy.
$619,900 Carmen Knick. 734-417-7307

1212 Wells Street, Ann Arbor
4BD, 3.5BA 1910 Burns Park home with 2005 addition, open floor plan, eat-in kitchen, family room with fireplace, dual staircases, and large attached garage—just steps from the park and school. $905,000. Naomi Dillen 734-429-9449.

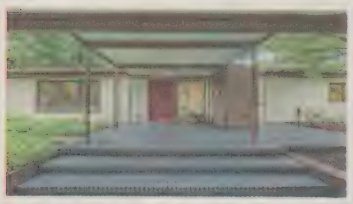
2570 Andrew Thomas Trail, Ann Arbor
Stunning 5BD, 5.5BA with open floor plan, deluxe kitchen, 2-story great room, main-floor primary suite, private guest suite, finished basement with gym, 3-car garage, generator, and wraparound porch. $939,000. Matt Miller. 734-476-4869.

223 E. Ann Street, Apt #6, Ann Arbor
Historic Armory condo like new! 3BD, 3BA w/ all-new mechanicals, kitchen, skylight, carpet & lighting. Top-floor loft, open main level, lower-level bedroom/family room, deeded parking, fitness room & private patio. $745,000. Jean Wedemeyer. 734-604-2523.

2875 Trailwood Lane, Ann Arbor
Unique equestrian estate on 10 acres! 3BR, 3.1BA home w/ walkout level, stable w/ 11 stalls, heated tack room, 60x152 indoor arena, pastures, pond, workshop & party room—minutes from town. $1,098,000. Leslie Sapp. 734-834-4454.



8960 Albany Court, Saline
Elegant 4BR, 3BA home w/ soaring windows, dual offices, granite kitchen, & open living anchored by a fireplace. Primary suite w/ spa bath, finished LL, & paver patio for entertaining. $667,500. Carmen Knick. 734-417-7307.



3586 E Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor
MidCenturyModern,designedbyRobert Metcalf, nestled into a wooded hilltop setting adjacent to Braun Nature Area. Open & airy abode, nicely updated while maintaining original integrity. $850,000. Nancy Bishop. 734-646-1333.

2086 Autumn Hill Drive, Ann Arbor
Stunning Walnut Ridge home. 4 BD, 6 BA with vaulted Primary suite, chef's kitchen, sunroom, 2-story family room, finished walkout basement with wet bar & sauna, deck, and landscaped private yard. $1,669,000. Kathy Li. 734-272-9853.

7914 Stony Lake Road, Jackson
Stunning 3 BD, 2.5 BA home w/ chef's kitchen, butler's pantry, cathedral ceilings & primary suite. Enjoy 3-car garage w/ RV hookup, outdoor kitchen, pergola, deck, hot tub & shower. $739,000. Jill Kleine. 734-417-4580.

20 Heatherridge Street, Ann Arbor
Mid-century gem by Robert Metcalf! 3BR, 2BA home nestled by Braun Nature Area w/ vaulted walnut ceilings, walls of glass, galley kitchen, pool & pool house—stylish retreat w/ timeless design. $749,999. Brynn Stelter. 734-277-2531

2460 Mershon Drive, Ann Arbor
Lansdowne 5BR, 3BA Colonial w/ office, updated kitchen, remodeled baths, new roof & mechanicals. Features 2nd-floor laundry, large deck, & quiet cul-de-sac near downtown & U-M Stadium. $899,000. Deb Helber. 734-649-7437

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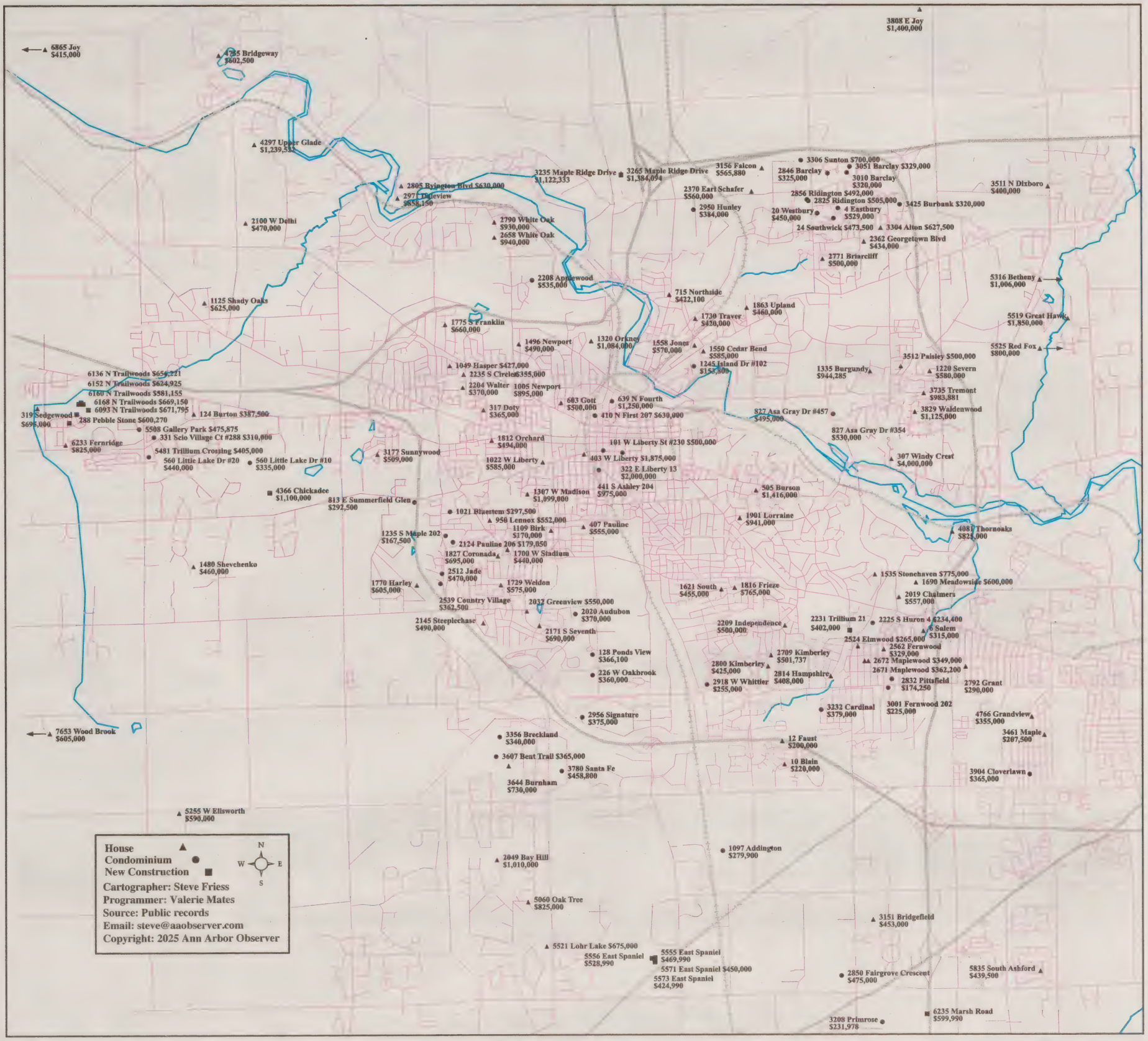
OCTOBER 2025

HOME SALES



A star builder sells his prototype for $1.25M: In 2004, up-and-coming developer-architect Tom Fitzsimmons bought a pre-WWII house at 637 N. Fourth Ave. for $299,000 and demolished it. In its place, he put up a two-unit, two-story Colonial-style duplex with ground-floor parking and garage elevators to each spacious, full-floor condo. He'd go on to do similar infill projects twenty times, all on near-downtown plots where he built or modified houses to look authentically historic. Eventually, he moved on to much bigger projects; his latest is the $1 million–apiece ten-condo River North development overlooking Argo Nature Area. One of those original units remained in his family all this time: his mother and then his brother and sister-in-law owned it before selling it last month for $1.25 million.

Not quite a broken record but ... : Before the $12.5 million sale of the Ferris estate in Superior Twp. in August became the most expensive piece of residential real estate ever sold in our area, the high was a mansion on Belmont Rd. in Ann Arbor Hills that went for $3.59 million in 2022. This month, the 5-bedroom, 5.2-bath, 9,113-square-foot, three-acre spread at 307 Windy Crest Dr., built in 2014, went for $4 million. Its description calls it a "custom-built Frank Lloyd Wright–inspired Prairie Modern style home," with "multiple outdoor living spaces, extensive landscaping, soothing water sculpture, and [an] entry water feature with [a] walk-over bridge."

Another student-built home sells: 319 Sedgewood Ln., the outcome of AAPS's much-vaunted Student Building Industry Program 2024–25 school year, is on the map this month after selling for $695,000. It's a 5-bedroom, 3.1-bath, 3,729-square-foot farmhouse-contemporary home in Scio Twp. Its sales price is just shy of last year's record-setting $700,000 sale of the home built in the 2023–24 school year, up the block at 399 Sedgewood Ln., which has identical dimensions. The proceeds are reinvested in the program and used to procure future plots.

These Old Houses of the Month: Fifty years after his death, the prolific U-M-educated mid-century modern architect James Livingston is having a moment. His light-filled 3-bedroom, 2-bath, 2,918-square-foot Arbor Hills design, built in 1956 for William and Mary Bandemer, sold for $1.4 million, just seven years after the sellers won an Ann Arbor Historic Preservation award for rehabbing it. Weeks later, another MCM Livingston gem at 4081 Thornoaks Dr. in Ann Arbor Twp., which boasts views of either the Huron River or a nearby pond from every room, sold for $825,000. A third Livingston creation, 805 Mount Pleasant on the Old West Side, sold in September 2024 for $870,000, an impressive $140,000 over asking.

—Steve Friess

Good thing we went with the *10' ceilings.*

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Memorials

CLIFFORD GEORGE SHELDON
September 24, 1942–November 8, 2025

Cliff passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, November 8, 2025—of a tired heart.

One of Cliff's favorite movies was *It's a Wonderful Life* starring his distant relative, Jimmy Stewart. Cliff felt he had a wonderful life, starting with his very special and loving wife Ingrid, daughter Amy Cell and her husband Bill Schikora, son Bill and his wife Lori, and grandchildren Allie Cellber (Neil), Olivia, Blake, Henry, Cole, and Clark. Other close relatives include brother Tom, brother Dave and his wife Kathy, brother-in-law Erik Blom, and many nieces and nephews.

Cliff was born on September 24, 1942 to Ruth Moffitt and G. Clifford Sheldon. He grew up in Massachusetts and New Jersey, graduating from Long Branch (N.J.) High School. He received his A.B. from Duke University and his M.B.A. from the University of Michigan. Following graduation, Cliff worked as a management trainee at the Kroger Corporation where he learned the grocery business and found "love in the produce aisle" with Ingrid Blom who was working at Kroger to put herself through Eastern Michigan University. In 1966 Cliff and Ingrid were married and Cliff began a 40-year rewarding career in banking with Ann Arbor Bank (now PNC), Ann Arbor Commerce Bank, and Ann Arbor State Bank. He enjoyed helping businesses and individuals with their financial needs and held various titles including Executive Vice President.

Cliff believed in giving back to the community and became actively involved with many service organizations and nonprofits. He and Ingrid were onstage and backstage with the Thurston Players. Cliff was president of the Ann Arbor Jaycees, chair of the Washtenaw County Chapter of the American Red Cross, president of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor and the Waterman Alumnae Group. He served on the boards of other nonprofits and NuStep Corporation as well as various City of Ann Arbor boards and commissions. Following retirement, Cliff was a SCORE volunteer mentoring new entrepreneurs and delivered Meals on Wheels. Cliff was elected twice to the Ann Arbor City Council (1978–1982). He was unopposed in the second election and elected Mayor ProTem by his fellow city council colleagues.

Cliff and Ingrid enjoyed life in Ann Arbor, including University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan athletics, various theater and musical productions, the Ann Arbor Symphony, OLLI activities, and Waterman lunches. Then there was the bridge group, the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre play group, basketball, volleyball, and bowling teams and the GWN poker and golf group. The Sheldon family had great times at the Michigan Alumni Camp (Michigania) and traveled to interesting places within the United States and around the world. Cliff and Ingrid appreciated the golfing, dining, and tailgating at Ann Arbor Golf and Outing, and Cliff was a past president of "the little club."

Ingrid said that she was attracted to Cliff because "he made me laugh" and they both tried to accentuate the positive in their fifty-nine-year wonderful journey through life.

A celebration of life took place on Saturday, November 15 at First United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor (120 S. State St.) at 2 p.m. A reception followedat the Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation or Food Gatherers in his memory.

VICTOR H. ROTBERG

Victor Hanin Rotberg, age seventy-nine, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away peacefully on November 11, 2025.

Victor was born on May 8, 1946, in São Paulo, Brazil, to Abrahão Rotberg and Tobey (Thelma) Hanin Rotberg. He spent his early years in Brazil and also cherished a formative year living with his maternal grandparents in Brooklyn, New York.

A lifelong scholar and scientist, Victor earned his PhD in nuclear physics from the University of São Paulo in 1979. His postdoctoral work took him to Abingdon and Manchester, England, before returning to Brazil. In 1984, Victor moved to the United States, followed soon after by his family. He went on to lead a distinguished career as manager of the Michigan Ion Beam Laboratory (MIBL) for Surface Modification and Analysis at the University of Michigan, where his expertise, mentorship, and dedication left a lasting legacy.

Victor loved music, travel, food, and chess. A talented musician, he played clarinet, flute, and saxophone, and was an active member of the Saline New Horizons Band and other ensembles. He was also an accomplished chess player and a devoted traveler, particularly drawn to the beauty and culture of Italy.

Victor is survived by his beloved wife, Marilyn Marie Rotberg, whom he married on May 28, 2000; his children Anna Victoria Rotberg Molofsky (Ari Molofsky) and their children Eliana and Max; David Rotberg (Krystal Rotberg) and their children Eden, Eli, Ewan, and Ethan; and his stepson Mark Zimmerman. He is also survived by his sisters Isa Rotberg and Dina (Rotberg) Tomchinsky. He was preceded in death by his son Daniel Rotberg (1975–2012).

Victor's memory is a blessing to all those who knew and loved him.

PAUL NIELSEN
December 30, 1937–May 9, 2024

We remember and miss Paul on his eighty-eighth birthday. His kindness, wisdom, and gentle leadership of his family is in our hearts. We continue to live our lives honoring his memory with our love. —The Nielsen Family

CHRIS BARRY

Christine Ann Barry, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, colleague, and friend, passed away peacefully at her childhood home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on August 23, 2025, at the age of 67. A memorial celebration of her life was held November 8 from 3–5 p.m. at the University of Michigan League in Ann Arbor. All are welcome to remember and honor Chris whose spirit lives on in the many lives she touched and in the communities she helped to strengthen.

Born on June 6, 1958, in Hammond, Indiana, Chris was the daughter of Henry Ford Barry and Helen Antoinette Barry (Sasso), both of whom preceded her in death. She grew up in Ann Arbor and spent much of her life there, deeply rooted in the community she loved. Chris was a gifted communicator, fundraiser, and servant leader whose career reflected her lifelong commitment to education, the arts, and social good. From 2019 to 2023, she served as a development officer for the Rackham Graduate School at her alma mater, the University of Michigan, where her generosity of spirit, skill in building relationships, and gift for storytelling left an enduring mark. Her work as a fundraiser and grants coordinator also included service at Michigan Ability Partners, advancing services for veterans and individuals with disabilities; the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation securing vital resources for students and teachers; and at Emerson School in Ann Arbor.

She also served from 2015 to 2017 as the Executive Director of Alpha House, a shelter for homeless families in Washtenaw County, where she led with compassion and helped families find stability and new beginnings.

Earlier in her career, Chris worked in the vibrant world of local and regional arts organizations. While living for over a decade in Chicago, she brought her creativity and love of theater to positions with Steppenwolf Theatre Company, The Next Theatre Company, the Illinois Arts Council, and Court Theatre at the University of Chicago. Upon returning to Ann Arbor, she became the first executive leader of Wild Swan Theater, guiding its work as an acclaimed children's theater that reached schools and families across Michigan.

Beyond her professional achievements, Chris poured her heart into everything she did. She was the kind of person who always found time to write a thank-you note, celebrate someone else's success, or offer encouragement (and sometimes chicken soup) just when it was needed most by friends, family members, and neighbors. She had a playful love of life's small joys—a cup of coffee, a piece of chocolate, a good poem—and she encouraged others to find and savor those joys too. Chris loved music and was an enthusiastic audience member and supporter of Johnny's Speakeasy in Ann Arbor and of many individual musicians.

Above all, Chris was devoted to her family. She is survived by her children, Ella Webb Perry (Zach) and Noah Barry Webb; her cherished grandchildren, Elena Perry and Nicholas Webb; and her siblings and their spouses and partners: Hank Barry (Kathleen), John Barry (Pauline Gagnon), Bob Barry (Linda), Liz Barry (David Bryers), and Cathy Barry (Brian Stevens). Chris was a beloved aunt to ten nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her dear friend and former husband, Jeffrey Webb—father to Ella and Noah, grandfather to Elena and Nicholas, and a great support to Chris throughout her recent illness.

For the last 21 months of her life, Chris lived courageously with brain cancer, meeting each day with strength, humor, and the unwavering positivity that defined her. She was laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Donations in her honor may be made to: Save the Speakeasy savethespeakeasy.com or the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School rackham.umich.edu/make-a-gift.

ANNE GARDNER REMLEY
September 10, 1930 – November 5, 2025

Anne Gardner Remley, writer and social-justice activist, passed away on November 5 in Boulder, Colorado, after contending with a degenerative neurological condition for several months. She departed peacefully on a beautiful fall day as the full moon rose in the east.

Anne was born in 1930 in Chicago, where her father was starting his ministerial career in a little Congregational church. The family moved to Midland, Michigan, in 1936 for her father's next pulpit. Home of the Dow Chemical company, Midland also became a showcase for architect Alden Dow (son of the Dow founder), whose modern homes and churches inspired Anne's lifelong interest in architecture, art, and design.

Anne attended the University of Michigan from 1948 to 1955, concentrating on radio and television before earning a master's degree in speech communication. Happily, she met a student radio engineer, Fred Remley, who in 1952 became her beloved husband of sixty-six years. Fred and Anne raised two children: Paul is now a professor of medieval English at the University of Washington, and Kate earned a PhD in electrical engineering from Oregon State University before working as an electronics engineer at NIST in Boulder, now retired after twenty-two years.

As a "nonworking" 1950s–60s mother, Anne devoted herself to creating a warm environment in the hillside home that she and Fred helped to construct in Ann Arbor. In addition to family activities and gardening, she also developed a lifetime interest in social activism, working for causes like civil rights and low-income housing. One of the first causes she engaged in was with the group People for Alternative Learning Situations (PALS), championing Ann Arbor public school reform that included programs based on the model of "hands-on learning," which stresses exploratory projects that link history, science, math, and group interaction. Happily, this style of "open" school, K–12, remains popular in Ann Arbor.

After Paul and Kate graduated from high school, Anne worked for nine years as a writer-editor for the Ann Arbor Observer. Her journalistic focus was on education, and she won two School Bell Awards, honoring the best-written articles about education in Michigan. One of her most high-profile articles was about the pivotal 1979 federal court litigation (the "Black English" case) which centered on an Ann Arbor school's failure to accommodate the language needs of its African American students.

Decades later, Ann Arbor School Superintendent Richard Benjamin, a supporter of open education, telephoned her to tell her how much he admired her work, calling it the best-written journalism he had ever read on education in Michigan. Anne cherished her involvement in educational reform, remarking that it brought her great joy to know that the impact it had on children would continue to resound into the future.

Anne's next step involved a focus on state-of-the-art support for people with Alzheimer's, like her widowed mother who entered a local Ann Arbor facility that was pioneering "family-style" care. In this model of care, the focus is on living in the moment, which provides a calm, supportive atmosphere that reduces the uncertainty and stress of losing one's full cognitive ability. The facility supported research in the area of dementia care, leading to several enduring innovations.

Starting in the 1990s, Anne's focus on social justice expanded during her association with the Ann Arbor Quakers, where she worked for an end to mass incarceration and (after meeting several people from the region in 2001) for Palestinian human rights. After Fred's death in 2019, she moved from Ann Arbor to Boulder to be near her daughter Kate. After a short period of loneliness in this brand-new community, she soon connected with new activist circles and dove into work to support pro-peace, pro-Palestinian human-rights causes, among other social-justice causes. She could frequently be seen on Saturdays at the corner of Broadway and Canyon demonstrating in support of Palestinian human rights. In 2023, she helped to start the Quakers' Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM), whose monthly Peace and Social Justice Roundtable meetings on Zoom include nineteen Quaker groups across the mountain states.

Anne's vision was for a society that cares for the needs of all residents with subsidized healthcare, housing, and education for all. She felt that people in the U.S. are suffering because their needs are not taken seriously by their country. Her worldview is sometimes called Democratic Socialism—a term embraced by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—quite distinct from the "communism" it is so often derided as in public forums. Anne was very concerned about the evidently unchecked U.S. military support for Israel and campaigned for years for peace. She passionately supported community police reform, such as the establishment of trauma teams comprised of social workers and medical personnel to aid people in distress—an alternative to bringing in the police as a first-line response to mental health emergencies.

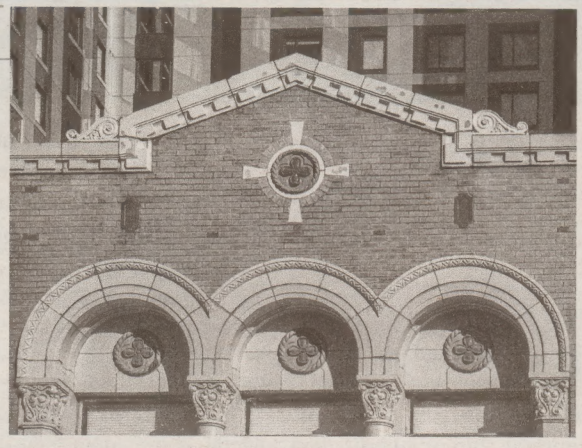
Anne's other passions in life included family camping trips by Lake Michigan, swimming, theater, concert-going, and international travel with her late husband, Fred, whose career in television engineering included committees that negotiated standards to enable audio and video sharing worldwide. Anne's favorite words sum up her personality and her values: Discovery, Exploration, Evolution (she often said, "We are all part of the evolution of the universe"); Social Justice; and her favorite word to mark the end of an interaction: Onward! Anne's deepest wish was that we should all continue moving onward to make the world a more just and caring place.

Anne is survived by son Paul and daughter-in-law Fiona Robertson Remley of Everett, Washington, and daughter Kate and son-in-law Dylan Williams of Boulder, Colorado. Numerous Quaker Friends and activist colleagues are Anne's extended family, continuing to supp ort her preferred causes and, in a very real way, extending Anne's work even in her absence. A memorial service is planned at the Boulder Friends Meeting House on December 13, at 10 a.m.

Back Page

i spy

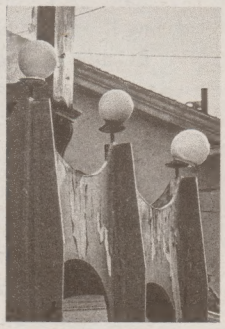
by Sally Bjork



Changing landscape

"Finally, I got the I Spy clue! It's the old Le Dog location on Liberty [at] Thompson," writes Linda Kentes. "They had that wonderful lobster bisque!" "I still miss walking a block from work to get soup" from the stand, notes Spencer Thomas. The clue "bisque happens" refers only to the stand at 410 E. Liberty; Le Dog still simmers downtown at 306 S. Main St., where their famous lobster bisque appears twice weekly.

Though vacant for years, the little red stand remains "a landmark," says Dyke McEwen. "It catches my eye every time," adds Kathy Ann Moilanen. Bob Hart praises its "funky modernist architecture," while Bob Maddox says it needs "some TLC." Chris Sefcheck agrees the "corner sure could use a facelift." It's "such a cool little building," says Shannon Kohlitz, who wonders why the stand closed.



The stand—set before a 1936 single-stall garage—began as Clark's Caramel Corn Castle, running until the late 1970s. Jules Van Dyke-Dobos leased it in 1979, cooking his unique creations there for thirty-five years before consolidating into the Main St. shop after a 2014 kitchen expansion. His wife, Ika, ran the Main St. spot from 1996, joined by their son Miki Wartha. Two years ago, Le Dog was sold to former employee Maria Moncada and her cousin, Karyn Garcia, though Jules and Ika remain involved.

Several entrants noted the name "Le Dog" came from combining lemonade and hot dogs—the stand's original offerings—reportedly suggested by Jules' sister. Soups soon followed, becoming local legend.

Thirty-seven entrants identified the Liberty St. site. Our random-drawing winner, Jeri Hollister—a potter—first thought of clay bisque, then "remembered the delicious lobster bisque they served." She'll enjoy her $25 gift certificate at Zingerman's.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 153 entries correctly identifying the Fake Ad for Mt. Whitmore on page 57 of the November Observer.

"Please enter me in the Fake Ad contest," writes David Joseph. "It's the Mt. Whitmore ski resort. Not sure which is more laughable: 'dozens of feet of vertical' or 'southeast Michigan's version of Lake Tahoe.' I drive from Ann Arbor to Brighton every day for work: 'dozens of feet of vertical' is generous."

"I haven't searched for ages but I treated myself to some time with the November issue," writes Adrienne Licata. "Our cottage is on Ore Lake in Hamburg Township, not far from Whitmore Lake and Mt. Brighton, so this was fun ... Local love and all but I've spent enough time in Tahoe to know we aren't giving them much competition on this one." Licata ends her note with, "I'm Adrienne Licata, grateful reader since 1997."

Now, the part where we quote people praising us:

"I love how creative these fake ads are!"

"Thank you as always for the monthly challenge!"

"I love the Fake Ad contest almost as much as the Ann Arbor Observer!"

"Many thanks for sustaining this great series!"

"Thanks for giving me a few minutes of entertainment each month." (Okay, that one sounds like it's from Mrs. Fake Ad Czar.)

Our winners are the Lin-Turnbull family. They're taking their gift certificate to Zingerman's.

Want to play too? Use the I Spy image and hint to identify the Ann Arbor location. Find the Fake Ad hidden in this issue (hint: the ad always contains the last name of the previous month's winner in some form). Send your entries to backpage@aaobserver.com or PO Box 1187, AA 48106. All correct entries received by noon, December 10, will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue. Want more Back Page goodness? Order *The Fake Ad Book* and *I Spy: Ann Arbor Architecture* at annarborobserver.com/books.

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Announcements

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What She Said

by Bree Stilwell

"There is always so much going on around town this time of year! Can you help me figure out how to balance fun time with downtime?"

I'm exhausted just thinking about how to answer your question! Living in such an option-rich community—where our cultural cup regularly overfloweth—can feel like both a blessing and a curse. Add the holidays into the mix, and we can all quickly find ourselves overwhelmed and under-rested.

Your concern, dear reader, seems to be less about FOMO and more about discernment—how to make the right decision for the right moment. We all want to do the fun stuff, but we're also well aware of the limits to our carousing. Our mental, physical, and emotional health can tank before we know it, which is really the opposite of what we're angling for. We know restraint matters, but it sure is elusive when facing the seasonal smorgasbord that is December in Ann Arbor.

Two people who gracefully and successfully toe that line are Brenda and Chuck Marshall, cofounders of the online magazine *Life in Michigan*. Brenda and Chuck are two of the busiest locals around, seemingly everywhere at once as they chronicle the "beauty and culture of Michigan" from their A2 HQ.

When asked how they manage their own play-life balance, Brenda is immediately empathetic, summing up how so many of us feel when choosing where and how to show up: "You just want to go to all of them, because you want to support all of them."

"All" is clearly not an option, so Brenda likes to pick new events each year rather than trying to run the gamut. Using specific parameters for how you'll spend your time can help take some pressure off the decision-making process, which as Chuck explains, helps you get "comfortable with the fact that you can't do everything."

Brenda also suggests getting clear about how long you're actually willing and able to spend at an event. "Just because it's a four-hour festival doesn't mean I'm gonna do four hours of it, right? Sometimes you just have to know, like, after an hour, I'm done." No one's going to clock your attendance or issue you a social demerit for cutting out early (though thanking your host is always good form). Set yourself a curfew and stick to it.

If you want to get a little extra playful with your play, Chuck gamified the whole shebang for us: "Break out a little dice, pick five or six things that you think will look cool that day … roll … there you go." Apparently, these two once planned an entire vacation using a ten-sided die, so don't (or do!) be afraid to experiment with alternative applications.

Perhaps above all else, Brenda and Chuck favor serendipity as their holiday tour guide. "Some of the best things that we have experienced are things that we've just truly sort of stumbled upon," says Brenda, with Chuck adding, "There's something to be said for just being flexible with yourself."

In this season of high-octane abundance, maybe that's the greatest gift we can give ourselves—to just relax and roll with it.

Need Ann Arbor-ish advice? Email bree@aaobserver.com.

Where did "Events at a Glance" go? The notable events we used to list separately in "Events at a Glance" are now highlighted in pink throughout the entire month of listings, beginning on page 65. The **"Only in Ann Arbor Event of the Month"** appears on the first page of listings.

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